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Horses in Pisa
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King discharged from hospital; Bahraini Emir telephones HM

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein was discharged from hospital Sunday after surgery to remove an abscess, the King's personal physician Lieutenant-General Samir Farraj said. Dr. Farraj said King Hussein was recuperating in his private residence in London, the city where he underwent the operation Friday night. He told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from London that the King "is in a perfect shape and the abscess is nearly cured." Bahraini leader Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa called King Hussein Sunday to congratulate him on the success of the operation. King Hussein also received a telephone call from the Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence and Aviation Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

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House begins extraordinary session

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday met in an extraordinary session, chaired by House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour and attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti. The House elected members of its committees and referred several draft laws to the concerned committees for discussion. Among these draft laws were a revised draft law on Civil Courts Proceedings, a revised draft Penal Code, the draft law on the Centre for Studies on Freedoms, Democracy and Human Rights, two draft laws on unifying taxes and fees on imported and re-exported goods and a revised draft law on banks. The House will meet again on Wednesday.

Opposition parties defy ban on sit-in staged to protest hike in bread prices

Kabariti: Government welcomes dialogue

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Islamic-dominated opposition on Sunday defied a police ban and staged a sit-in outside Parliament to protest the government plans to hike bread prices.

More than 100 opposition activists and leaders of a coalition of nine parties — a cross section of left wing, pan-Arabist and Islamist groups — broke through a heavy security cordon that sealed off Parliament area from pedestrians, apparently aimed at obstructing the sit-in.

Hamza Mansour, the spokesman for the Islamic Action Front (IAF) told reporters that Amman governor had denied them permission to stage the sit-in in front of Parliament. Eyewitnesses said hundreds of other protesters who planned to join the sit-in were barred from reaching Parliament, with scores of police check-points erected across key road intersections leading to the blue-domed Parliament.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, arriving to attend the opening of the extraordinary session of Parliament, met the protesters outside the assembly

gates and said he was ready to open a dialogue with the opposition parties.

"The government's doors will remain open and will welcome any meeting with the representatives of the people for constructive and responsible dialogue," said the prime minister.

"We all are agreed on working for the higher national interests within the framework of the law and the Constitution in accordance with ethical and legal criteria," he added.

The opposition says plans to end bread subsidies will bring extra hardship to Jordan's poor whose daily diet consists mainly of bread.

"The parties, professional and labour unions agreed to expressing in a democratic peaceful way their opposition to raising bread prices," Mr. Mansour said. The government said this month it plans to raise the cost of bread to 250 fils a kilo from 85 fils but has not said when the increase will take effect.

Jordan is under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reduce its mounting 1996 food subsidy bill after grain prices on the



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti (left) Sunday argues with Islamic Action Front leader Ishaq Al Frahan outside Parliament during a sit-in the opposition staged to protest the government's move to hike bread prices (Reuters photo)

international market increased by more than three folds.

A 150 million dinar deficit in the JD 1.8 billion budget now threatens to derail a three year IMF-directed expanded reform programme.

Mr. Kabariti explained to

the protesters the reasons for the government's decision, saying: "The prime minister shoulders the responsibility of this decision which is a national decision designed to help the country become self-reliant and to reduce the deficit in the budget."

"The decision, which is within the framework of the reform programme, is for redistribution and not the elimination of the subsidy," he said.

Mr. Kabariti said "should the implementation of the decision prove to have gaps and loopholes and that

harm has befallen any Jordanian citizen the government will address the situation."

The protesters, who included women unions, had rallied to meet with the Speaker of the Lower

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat to bring 'positive' approach to meeting with Levy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will bring a "positive" approach to his meeting this week with Israel's Foreign Minister David Levy, an Arafat adviser told Reuters on Sunday.

"President Arafat will meet with Foreign Minister Levy on Tuesday at Erez," said Khaled Salam, who advises Mr. Arafat on economic and political issues, referring to Erez in the Gaza Strip near the border with Israel.

"Mr. Levy will find President Arafat positive and understanding as he hopes to find the same from Levy," he said.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman refused to confirm or deny the meeting date, although Israel has said the meeting will be held this week.

Mr. Salam said: "The Palestinian side considers this a very important meeting especially since it is the first high-level contact since the election of the new (Israeli) government."

He added: "The Israelis have to return to the principle of trading land-for-peace and — for the Israeli side to relax — we say trading land-for-peace and security. We don't see any harm in developing this phrase from the

Palestinian and Arab point of view."

Hardline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won May 29 Israeli elections vowing to make peace with security. He has said he is opposed to trading land-for-peace, the principle that guided nearly five years of Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he will meet Mr. Arafat only if he deems it necessary for the security of Israel.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official speaking on condition he not be named said: "We expect an announcement after the meeting on Israeli redeployment from Hebron and resumption of talks and contacts with Israel."

Final peace talks between the PLO and Israel began on May 5 and have yet to resume under Mr. Netanyahu. In September, Israel agreed to redeploy its troops in the West Bank town of Hebron. Mr. Netanyahu has said he is studying the agreement and has yet to make a decision.

Hizbollah, Israel swap their dead, prisoners

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's Hizbollah and avowed foe Israel swapped their dead on Sunday in a deal which took the remains of two Israeli soldiers home and returned to Lebanon the bodies of more than 100 guerrillas killed in fighting the Jewish state.

In a German-brokered, prisoners-bodies swap, the remains of Rahamin Al Sheikh and Yossi Fink were taken from Beirut by German military plane to an airfield in Lod, Israel, accompanied by the mediators who secured the deal.

Hour later, Israel began handing over about 100 bodies of Arab guerrillas to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the Lebanon border, witnesses said.

Israel's South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia ally,

which helps Israel patrol an occupation zone in South Lebanon, also freed 20 prisoners from Khiam Jail, to be followed by 25 later.

The two Israeli soldiers were captured by Hizbollah in 1986.

"For the Fink and Al Sheikh families there were pressures and pain and sorrow for many, many years. Today they've reached some comfort in that at least there will be a grave," Israeli President Ezer Weizman told Israeli Army Radio.

"I also can say, for all the anger that there is against the enemy, that on the other side there is also a mother or two who are waiting for the same thing."

A SLA source in Lebanon said: "a total of 141 bodies of guerrillas will be handed over, 123 from Israel and 18 from (the SLA) in the (occu-

pation) zone."

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah also handed over 17 freed SLA fighters to the ICRC in a Beirut suburb.

Hizbollah's Al Manar Television showed the 17 freed SLA men kissing the forehead of the group's black-robed chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah shortly before the release. They smiled and drank juice as they chanted with the bearded Nasrallah.

The SLA men, captured by Hizbollah in attacks on the Israeli-held zone, were taken by the ICRC to Kfar Tibnit, checkpoint leading into the South Lebanon border strip.

At Kfar Tibnit, witnesses said anxious relatives of captives and the dead guerrillas awaited their arrival. So too did 100 ambulances of the Lebanese Red Cross,

Hizbollah and others.

"Every top official in Lebanon should come down here to meet these prisoners and martyrs who died for Lebanon's dignity," one man waiting at the checkpoint said.

"I am crying for joy for the released prisoners. I am also sad for the dead," the Shi'ite Muslim man, in his 50s, said.

Sunday's exchange deal won the backing of Syria, which wields influence with Hizbollah, and Iran, which arms the group. It was the first major swap since September 1991 when the SLA freed 51 Lebanese prisoners and Israel returned nine guerrillas' bodies in a deal that paved the way for the release

of some Western captives in Lebanon. ICRC received the

Israelis' remains at the Shi'ite Muslim group's press office in Beirut's southern suburb.

The ICRC delegates then handed the remains at Beirut airport to the German officials headed by Bernd Schmidbauer who sealed the agreement on Friday after talks in Beirut and Damascus with Hizbollah leaders.

Israel unearthed the guerrillas' bodies and brought them in numbered coffins to the border in 12 army trucks. Soldiers moved the wooden boxes to trucks flying the ICRC flag for transport into Lebanon.

The captives freed from Khiam, all Lebanese and many from villages in the zone, wore track suits and each carried a small bag of clothes, witnesses said.

Israel denies entry to Palestinian workers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel refused to let in thousands of workers from the West Bank on Sunday to protest an arrest by Palestinian authorities in East Jerusalem, where Israel opposes any assertion of Palestinian sovereignty, Israel Radio said.

Israel had said it would let in 10,000 more workers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Sunday, easing the crippling closure that has been in effect since Feb. 25. Military sources confirmed that the easing in the West Bank was on hold, but did not say why.

The 5,000 workers from Gaza were apparently to be allowed in, although their permits had not been issued yet Sunday.

The conflict began when Palestinian agents arrested a Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem on Saturday and took him to Ramallah. In response, the Israeli army sealed off Ramallah, blocking residents from entering or leaving the West Bank city, which is under Palestinian autonomy rule. The city was still sealed Sunday.

The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreements forbid the

Palestinian National Authority (PNA) from operating in Jerusalem.

Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, head of the Israeli army's central command, said the additional West Bank workers would not be allowed in until the question of the Jerusalem arrest was resolved.

Ziad Abu Zayyad, a Palestinian council member and negotiator, called Israel's response "supid and a severe violation of the agreement between the PLO and Israel."

If Israel believes the Palestinians have violated the agreements, it should take the matter to the Israel-Palestine liaison committee set up to handle such complaints, he said, not "punish a whole people."

The 50-year-old Abdul Salam Hribawi was arrested because of a dispute with the Coptic Church over a property he leases in Jerusalem's Old City, his family said.

The church enlisted the aid of the Egyptian government, which persuaded Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat to support the church's demand, the family said.

Investigators peer into ocean for evidence from Flight 800

EAST MORICHES, New York (Agencies) — Investigators using sonar equipment detected a trail of wreckage and a large object on the ocean floor in the area where TWA Flight 800 crashed, officials said.

"This is what we want," James Kallstrom, assistant director of the FBI said Saturday. "We want the fuse, we want the rest of the airplane, and the higher priority is, we want the bodies. ... I suspect they're all together."

National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Robert Francis said the object at the end of the trail of wreckage rises at least 5 metres above the ocean floor.

Mr. Francis said searchers hoped to videotape the

piece of wreckage later on Sunday, and then send navy divers down for it.

The two men spoke as reports continued to circulate that Flight 800 was downed by a bomb and relatives complained about the delay in identifying the remains of their loved ones. All 230 people aboard died.

"The FBI has not made that determination," Mr. Kallstrom said. "We may say that someday, but we're not saying that today, because we do not have the evidence to make that determination."

Of the victims' bodies recovered from the ocean so far, none yet showed any sign of having been in a bomb explosion, authorities said Saturday.

Navy investigators were

searching for the Boeing 747's two recorders for cockpit conversations and flight data, the so-called black boxes, along with the plane's engines and other parts.

They sailed on the 33.5 metres private ship Pirouette, equipped with an underwater microphone to pick up the sounds of the recorders' automatic locator beacons, said Lt. Cmdr. Gordon Hume.

The Paris-bound airliner, carrying 230 people, exploded shortly after take-off Wednesday evening, showering flaming debris on the ocean off the southern coast of Long Island. It was the second-worst aviation disaster in U.S. History.

Less than one per cent of

the wreckage had been found, Mr. Francis said.

Of the 100 bodies recovered so far, 23 have been positively identified, the Suffolk County medical examiner said Sunday.

Robert Bonatempi, spokesman for the Suffolk County medical examiner, said the bodies had not yet provided any major clues.

"The body acts as a trap for projectiles when a bomb explodes and to this point we have not seen any bodies that would indicate that there was a type of bomb," said Mr. Bonatempi. "There were no metal fragments in any of the folks that we examined to this point."

He also said there were no heat burns that might suggest a bomb exploded on the plane.

"There have been some chemical burns from the petrol but it appears to be post mortem ... Chemical burns from the gasoline floating around," said Mr. Bonatempi.

The cause was the last thing on the minds of many of the Flight 800 families sheltered at an airport hotel. "It doesn't make any difference; my daughter is gone," said Ron Dwyer, 42, of Phoenix, the father of 11-year-old Larkyn Lynn Dwyer.

A weary-looking Kallstrom said his own meeting with the families had been "very emotional," and he disclosed that a longtime friend had been among the

(Continued on page 7)

DR. SAMI RABADI, ONCOLOGIST -
HEMATOLOGIST AMERICAN BOARD OF
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY AMERICAN BOARD OF
INTERNAL MEDICINE FELLOW AMERICAN
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS ANNOUNCES THE
OPENING OF HIS OFFICE LOCATED IN ALICO
BUILDING, 4TH CIRCLE. JABAL AMMAN.
TELEFAX 693788.

OFFICE HOURS 9 AM TO 1.0 PM AND 4 PM TO
7 PM SATURDAY THRU THURSDAY.

Netanyahu tested again by his coalition

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Two ultra-orthodox ministers on Sunday threatened to resign in another blow to the fledgling right-wing government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Interior Minister Eli Shaisa and Labour and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, from the religious Shas Party, said they would give Mr. Netanyahu until Monday evening to consider their demands for cabinet positions before handing in their resignations, state radio reported.

The two Shas ministers are upset at Mr. Netanyahu's refusal to give the party the religious affairs portfolio and the deputy post in Likud hardliner Ariel Sharon's new infrastructure super-min-

istry.

Earlier the two ministers said they would resign on Sunday afternoon, but Mr. Netanyahu has pledged to do everything possible to find a solution to the issue by Monday evening.

Shas, which won 10 seats in the 120-seat parliament in May 29 polls, is a key part of Mr. Netanyahu's 66-seat majority in the Knesset.

Mr. Netanyahu has so far held onto the religious affairs ministry himself as Shas and the National Religious Party, which has nine Knesset seats, battle it out for control of the portfolio.

If the two Shas ministers carried out their threat to resign, the decision would not come into force until 48 hours later under Israeli law, giving Mr. Netanyahu

a breathing space to find a way out of the crisis.

Shas Deputy Shlomo Benizri, a candidate for deputy infrastructure minister, said "the resignation of the two ministers would not necessarily mean Shas's departure from the coalition government."

Mr. Netanyahu faced another political crisis earlier this month when he forced through plans to create an infrastructure super-ministry for Mr. Sharon after Foreign Minister David Levy threatened to quit in support of his hard-line ally.

The new ministry was hastily pieced together from parts of the housing, transport, defence and agriculture ministries, angering other members in the coalition dominated by national-

ists and religious conservatives.

Since his slim election victory over former Prime Minister Shimon Peres in May 29 elections, Mr. Netanyahu has cobbled together a coalition of small parties each vying to assure its role in the government and meet the varying demands of its constituents.

Another member of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition threatened last week to bring a no-confidence motion against the government over street battles between police and ultra-orthodox Jews demanding the closure of a main Jerusalem street during the Sabbath.

Avraham Ravitz, an MP from the United Torah Judaism Party, slammed the police operation as a

"pogrom," demanded that the Jerusalem police be fired and threatened a no-confidence motion if a commission of inquiry was not created.

The government attempted to find a compromise when it ordered Bar Ilan closed during prayer times on the Sabbath, but the supreme court slapped a temporary stay of execution on the decision.

Jewish fundamentalists have become increasingly strident in their demands since their unprecedented election success in the May polls.

And the government has had to listen to them after Mr. Netanyahu gave the religious parties five ministries to woo them into his coalition.

'Turkish planes violate Cypriot airspace'

NICOSIA (AFP) — Turkish aircraft violated Cypriot airspace in a deliberate act of "provocation," Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides said Sunday.

"The Greek-Cypriot side has informed the United Nations and the permanent members of the Security Council of Saturday's violation of Cypriot airspace by Turkish planes," Mr. Clerides told state radio.

Speaking at ceremonies in Nicosia to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Turkish invasion of the northern part of the eastern Mediterranean island, Mr. Clerides said the act was a "provocation at a time when efforts are being undertaken to control tension" in Cyprus.

Turkish forces invaded on July 20, 1974, in response to a coup in Nicosia inspired by the junta ruling Greece at the time, and the island has remained divided ever since.

Turkish-Cypriot leaders set up a breakaway republic in the north in 1983 which is only recognised by Ankara and where 35,000 Turkish troops are based.

New Islamist Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan made his first foreign trip to the Turkish Cypriot side of the island on Saturday to take part in celebrations to mark the invasion on Saturday.

Both Nicosia and Athens condemned the visit as a "provocation" two Turkish planes violated Cypriot airspace on several occasions between June 19 and 21 during Turkish military exercises, leading to furious Cypriot protests to the Security Council.

Sudan says no block on aid to south

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said on Sunday it was not obstructing the flow of humanitarian aid to the war-torn south as charged by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last week.

In a statement in the government Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper, the Sudanese foreign ministry said the United Nations could increase aid to the south if it relied less on air and more on land and river routes.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali's spokeswoman said on Monday the U.N. chief was deeply concerned over the

Sudanese government's "unilateral and unjustified obstruction" of humanitarian aid to the south.

"The foreign ministry expresses its regret over this inaccurate charge. It reiterates the keenness of the government of Sudan to deliver relief to all citizens affected by war-torn southern Sudan," the statement said.

"It is in that service that the government has urged the U.N. to use land and river routes and the railway line to transport relief instead of concentrating, as now, on air transportation which has proved inadequate and

expensive," it added.

The ministry said Sudan had allowed the U.N. to use a Hercules C-130 aircraft this month to help it meet the emergency needs of affected people in the south.

The U.N. said Dr. Boutros-Ghali was pleased the Sudanese government was permitting the seven-year-old U.N. Operation Lifeline Sudan to fly in relief aboard the C-130 during the critical month of July, before the new harvest was completed.

The U.N. World Food Programme charged last week that the government had refused since September to

allow it to use C-130 planes to make urgently needed food drops, claiming that arms deliveries to rebels had been made by similar aircraft.

The foreign ministry said the U.N. was responsible for the low volume of relief supplies that reached the south due to its reliance on air transportation.

It said that in 1995, 87,953 tonnes of relief aid were transported to southern Sudan, 15,532 tonnes of which were delivered by air, 3,575 tonnes by river barges and 68,836 tonnes by land.



PALESTINIAN WOMAN TALKS ON A CELLULAR PHONE: Latifah, a 65-year-old Palestinian woman, talks on her cellular telephone as she waits at an Israeli roadblock at the entrance to the West Bank town of Ramallah on Sunday. Israel barred exit from the Ramallah self-rule enclave on Saturday after it said Palestinian police illegally arrested a Palestinian from Jerusalem and took him to the enclave (Reuters photo)

Algerian court to try newspaper employees

PARIS (R) — A cartoonist and two others of La Tribune newspaper in Algeria will appear before an Algerian court on July 29 charged with "offending the national flag," a journalists group said on Sunday.

Earlier this month Algerian authorities stopped the newspaper from publishing, closed its office and later detained cartoonist Amari Chawki.

Legal proceedings were also started against the newspaper's director, Khedredine Ameyar, and the editor, Baya Gacemi.

"La Tribune and Amari were informed that the date of trial was set for July 29," the Algerian Assemblée Generale des Journalistes (AGJ) said.

Editors and journalists said the measures taken against the newspaper were aimed at intimidating the independent press and were another attempt at controlling the media.

A group of independent newspapers staged a 24-hour strike last week in a demonstration of support of La Tribune and press freedom in Algeria.

A statement issued by the AGJ, which denounced the legal proceedings, said the authorities' move would not stop journalists from "continuing their struggle until their colleague Amari is released and legal action against La Tribune dropped."

It called for a meeting at the Tahar Djaout Press Centre on July 23.

The centre was named after Djaout, who in June 1993 became the first journalist to be killed by Muslim guerrillas in Algeria.

More than 50 other journalists and editors have been killed since then by radical Muslim militants who accuse them of siding with the government in its four-year war against Islamic fundamentalists.

The authorities say they are committed to a free press in Algeria but journalists and newspapers must respect its reporting rules on the violence as the government strives to restore law and order and bring in a multi-party system.

World jurists attack Tunisia for jailing parliamentarian

GENEVA (R) — The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) on Sunday accused Tunisia of jailing opposition member of parliament Khemais Cham-mari to prevent him from campaigning against human rights violations in the country.

Mr. Cham-mari, 54 and former vice-president of the Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights which is affiliated to the ICJ, was sentenced to five years last week on charges of disclosing national defence secrets.

In a statement from its

Geneva headquarters the ICJ — which has been a prominent critic of Israeli treatment of Palestinians and last week issued a bitter critique of the U.S. judicial system — said the Cham-mari trial was "politically motivated."

The charges, it added, were "contrived to stifle his combat against human rights violations in Tunisia" and called on President Zin Al Abiddin Ben Ali to immediately pardon and free Mr. Cham-mari.

The ICJ, which sent a Swiss lawyer to observe

the July 17 hearing in Tunis, said the parliamentarian was arrested on May 18 and could have been sentenced to death under the charges.

The jurists' body, which links some 30 top lawyers and judges around the world and long campaigned against suppression of dissent in communist countries, said Mr. Cham-mari was accused of divulging secrets "to a foreign country or its agents."

This, it said, was based on evidence collected by telephone tapping and monitoring of facsimile

traffic in violation of the Tunisian constitution. The prosecution had failed to prove that a facsimile message which formed the basis of the charge came from him; the ICJ added.

The alleged secrets, the ICJ statement said, were related to the trial of Mohammad Moadia, the leader of an opposition grouping, the Movement of Democratic Socialists, in February.

Mr. Moadia was sentenced on Feb. 29 to 11 years in jail, and since then Mr. Cham-mari and other human rights

activists had been actively lobbying in his support.

As a result, the ICJ said, until his own arrest Mr. Cham-mari and his lawyer wife Alya Cherif-Cham-mari had been subjected to "a government-orchestrated harassment campaign."

This included "around-the-clock surveillance, a travel ban, physical assaults on Mrs. Cherif-Cham-mari, and the lifting of his immunity by the ruling party-dominated parliament," it added.

Arab countries divided over proposal on conflict prevention

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab countries are sharply divided over a proposal to create a conflict prevention mechanism to resolve disputes between them, Arab officials said here Sunday.

Representatives to the Arab League met in Cairo to work out the details of the mechanism, but "they could not reach an agreement due to the deep differences between them," the head of one delegation said.

Wealthy Gulf countries have balked at the costs of the project, insisting the

mechanism should not impose new financial burdens on the Arab League that they would be expected to bear, the delegation head said, asking not to be named.

"Other countries have refused the idea of dedicating military units to an armed force to be used in peacekeeping operations, arguing that it is too early to discuss this before the mechanism proves its effectiveness," he said.

The administration of the mechanism is also undecided. One group, including

Egypt, wants the agency to have an elected president "to give it weight and legitimacy," he said.

But other countries, including Tunisia, which first proposed the mechanism, along with Morocco, Algeria and Libya, want a rotating "troika" leadership made up of the current, previous and future Arab League presidents to "give equal geographic representation."

There are also "deep differences over who has the right to put a certain conflict between Arab countries

before the mechanism," said an Arab diplomat also asking to remain anonymous.

"Some of the members who have disputes with neighbouring Arab countries want to solve them by bilateral means and not by handing them over to a communal Arab mechanism," he said.

"There is not a clear idea about this mechanism," which Arab leaders agreed on in principle at a Cairo summit held June 22-23, said another Arab diplomat. The league representatives, who met last week

to discuss the mechanism, will continue their debate next Sunday, league sources said.

They have agreed on a final draft for a "pledge of honour" by which Arab countries vow to solve their conflicts peacefully and for an Arab court of justice to overcome disputes, although there are reservations remaining in both drafts.

The drafts are to be put before the foreign ministers from the league's 22 members for approval when they meet for their biannual ses-

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Richie Rich
15:30 Bonkers
15:55 Olympic Games
19:00 News in French
22:00 News in English
22:20 Olympic Games
02:15 Varieties

PRAYER TIMES

04:08 Fajr
05:39 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:45 Maghreb
21:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terza Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the
Department of Meteorology.
Relative hot weather conditions
will prevail with temperatures
above average by 3-4
degrees centigrade and winds
northwesterly moderate. In
Aqaba, winds will be northerly
moderate to active and seas
calm.
Min/Max. temp.
Amman..... 22/36
Aqaba..... 28/40
Deserts..... 22/38
Jordan Valley..... 25/39
Temperature readings:
Amman 36, Aqaba 39 Humid-
ity readings: Amman 28 per
cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

**USEFUL
TELEPHONE**

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

NUMBERS

Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints.....897467
Amman Municipality Complaints.....773111
Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs.....623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101
Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111
Water Authority.....680100
J. Electricity Authority.....815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information.....08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Masri.....675485
Dr. Khalid Abdo.....732920
Dr. Jun'a Abu Dhiab.....758848
Dr. Yousef
Rashed.....898863
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Nairokh pharmacy.....623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Nairokh pharmacy.....847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazin Abu Bakr.....276852
Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Fawwaz Hamdallah.....903644
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121

HOSPITAL

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre.....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....642816
Akileh Maternity.....642412
Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amnat.....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....669131
University Hospital.....(02)47100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
(03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen
Alia International Airport Tel.
(08)53200-5, where it should
always be verified.
Information on other flights
are supplied on phone 08
(52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:15 Sanaa (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
15:00 London (RJ)
17:20 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam
(RJ)
19:00 Bangkok (RJ)
08:45 Casablanca (RJ)
00:05 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur
(RJ)

Other Flights

11:45 Khartoum (SD)
13:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30 Kiev (6U)
15:00 Vienna (OS)
18:30 Athens, Istanbul (Q7)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
20:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:10 Beirut (ME)
22:00 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:30 Athens, Beirut (OA)
1:20 Amsterdam (KL)
05:40 London (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Rhodes, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30 Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

06:00 Istanbul (TK)
07:45 Beirut, London (BA)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
13:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Bahrain (GF)
15:30 Kiev (6U)
15:50 Vienna (OS)
19:30 Doha (Q7)
21:25 Cairo (MS)
23:00 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)
04:00 Beirut, Athens (OA)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
20:30 Aqaba (RW)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple.....700/500
Banana.....600/600
Banana (mulhammar).....520/520
Banana (imported).....780/500
Cabbage.....340/270
Carrot.....150/90
Cauliflower.....210/130
Cucumber (large).....130/80
Cucumber (small).....220/130
Eggplant.....220/140
Garlic.....650/400
Grapes.....470/300
Lemon.....400/400
Marrow (large).....280/150
Marrow (small).....430/280
Mulkiahia.....110/70
Onion (dry).....150/80
Okra.....700/500
Orange.....630/400
Plum.....350/250
Peanut.....500/320
Pear.....750/500
Peach.....630/400
Pepper (hot).....300/200
Pepper (sweet).....300/200
Potato.....370/220
Spring Bean.....500/300

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman.....8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus.....5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus.....7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman.....5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Performance by Philadelpia Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
• Recital of Lebanese folk Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
• Performance by the Jeddah Popular Art, Qatari Na'at the Main Theatre at 6:30 p.m.
• Children's play "Once Upon a Time" at 8:30 p.m.
• Poetry recital by Mohann Youssef Abdul Aziz at Darat Al-Funun

"The Debauch of Blas" at Rameed Shoman Foundation

"Muslims in Britain" at Exhibition of works by "Silence" at Darat Al-Funun
• Arab artists, until July 22, 1996
• Ceramics exhibition (Tel. 6991412), until July 22, 1996

Home

Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Arabia plans to employ 2000 Jordanian teachers to work at several of its educational institutions, according to Suleiman Zaid, chairman of a special Saudi educational contracting committee.

During a meeting Sunday with Minister of Education Muhsen Maq, attended by Secretary General Izzy Ibrahim, Mr. Zaid, who arrived in Amman last week, said the teachers will be working in public and private sector schools, private sector university colleges and special education centres.

Dr. Maq stressed the ministry's interest in meeting Saudi Arabia's requirements for qualified teachers.

He praised the strong relations between the two countries and voiced the ministry's keen interest in improving these ties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Public holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed on Sunday, July 23, in observance of the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

The announcement of the public holiday was made in a communique issued by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Kabariti calls for agriculture panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Sunday requested the establishment of a national committee on agriculture, headed by the Minister of Agriculture, in order to discuss problems and difficulties facing this sector and practical solutions that can be taken to resolve them.

The committee groups representatives of the ministries of Water and Irrigation, Industry and Trade, Planning, Supply, Finance, and Transportation, in addition to representatives of the Greater Amman Municipality, the Agricultural Marketing and Agricultural Credit Corporations and the Jordanian Society for Producers of Vegetables and Fruits.

WE

• Performance by Philadelpia Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

• Recital of Lebanese folk Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

• Performance by the Jeddah Popular Art, Qatari Na'at the Main Theatre at 6:30 p.m.

• Children's play "Once Upon a Time" at 8:30 p.m.

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• "The Debauch of Blas" at Rameed Shoman Foundation

• "Muslims in Britain" at Exhibition of works by "Silence" at Darat Al-Funun

• Arab artists, until July 22, 1996

• Ceramics exhibition (Tel. 6991412), until July 22, 1996

'Saudi Arabia to hire 2,000 teachers'

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Arabia plans to employ 2,000 Jordanian teachers to work at several of its educational institutions, according to Suleiman Zaidi, chairman of a special Saudi educational contracting committee.

During a meeting Sunday with Minister of Education Munther Masri, attended by Secretary General Izzat Jaradat, Mr. Zaidi, who arrived in Amman last week, said the teachers will be working in public and private sector schools, intermediate university colleges and special education centres.

Dr. Masri stressed the ministry's interest in meeting Saudi Arabia's requirements for qualified teachers.

He praised the strong relations between the two countries and voiced the ministry's keen interest in improving these ties.



Minister of Education Munther Masri (centre) and Secretary General Izzat Jaradat (left) meet with visiting chairman of a special Saudi educational contracting committee Suleiman Zaidi (Petra photo)

Visiting Japanese envoy says \$90m soft loan to Jordan being considered

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Sunday met with the Director General of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Seiichiro Noboru, and discussed Tokyo's grants and loans to the Kingdom, particularly a \$90 million soft loan which could be forthcoming.

Mr. Noboru, who arrived Saturday for a three-day visit, also reviewed with Mr. Kabariti Jordanian-Japanese economic cooperation, the general situation in the region and the economic needs of Jordan.

The Director General said Japan appreciates Jordan's endeavours to establish peace in the region and has been monitoring the situation in the region particularly after the rise to power in Israel by Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Noboru said his country will continue to participate in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process and provide economic assistance to the countries of the region.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Sunday meets with the Director General of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Seiichiro Noboru to discuss economic cooperation. Mr. Noboru was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura (Petra photo)

According to Mr. Noboru, Jordan is one of the main beneficiaries of Japanese soft loans, and Japan intends to continue to provide soft loans to the Kingdom for future projects.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Public holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed on Sunday, July 28 in observance of the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

The announcement of the public holiday was made in a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Kabariti calls for agriculture panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Sunday requested the establishment of a national committee on agriculture, headed by the Minister of Agriculture, in order to discuss problems and difficulties facing this sector and practical solutions that can be taken to resolve them.

National symposium to explore setting minimum wage

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh Sunday announced that his ministry is preparing for a national symposium dealing with setting a national minimum wage for manual labour, a project undertaken with the help of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and Jordanian employers.

A minimum wage, said Dr. Shakhanbeh, should minimise the current practice of Jordanian businesses relying on foreign labour, and will encourage Jordanians towards job currently occupied by foreign workers.

The ministry, according to Dr. Shakhanbeh, started taking steps towards setting a minimum wage as a result of worldwide trade liberalisation, and the emergence of the World Trade Organisation.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), he added, has issued a series of regulations calling for the setting of minimum wages with the purpose of protecting workers' rights.

In preparing for this project, the ministry plans to hold consultations with various labour organisations, labour unions and employers in order to guarantee that the minimum wage corresponds to the cost of living, said Dr. Shakhanbeh.

This, he added, would help organise the local labour market especially small businesses which usually employ more foreign workers than larger enterprises.

According to the minister, the outcome of the national symposium will be submitted to the Council of Ministers with a recommendation for the formation of a special committee which would set a minimum wage for labour.

AACO to discuss planned training centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) President Nader Dahabi today opens a two-day meeting of the Arab Air Carriers' Organisation (AACO) Training and Development Committee.

The committee will discuss the work plan of the AACO Regional Training Centre, which will be opened in Amman on Oct. 4, and needs for financial and administrative support for the centre over the next five years.

AACO and the European Union (EU) will sign an agreement Wednesday, to establish the regional training centre in Amman at a cost of approximately \$750,000.

Taking part in the meetings will be directors of training departments and centres at RJ, Middle East Airlines, Saudia, Emirates Air, Kuwaiti Airways, Air Syria, Yemda, Yemenia, Air Tunisia. The meetings will convene at the Jordan InterContinental Hotel.

Environmental seminar targets degradation in self-rule areas

AMMAN (Petra) — An environmental training seminar, organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), began Sunday with a partial focus on salvaging the environment in Palestinian lands which suffered serious degradation under Israeli occupation.

Senator Laila Sharaf, vice president of the (RSCN), addressed the opening session, stressing the need for universal protection of the earth.

"Special attention to public awareness campaigns should be directed to the youth in order to educate the new generation on means to better deal with the environment and provide protection to the land," she said.

Mrs. Sharaf said it is highly important to link awareness about the environment to the educational process, stressing the need for such education in the school curriculum.

Nature's water resources are continually exposed to the danger of pollution, Mrs. Sharaf said, so Palestinians in particular have a huge task in dealing with the pollution caused to their environment from the years of occupation.

Ahmad Rousan, head of the RSCN's Environmental Awareness Department, told the delegates that the RSCN has become a centre for training personnel in the Arab World on environmental protection with cooperation from international experts.

He added that Jordan was the first Arab country to draft a national strategy on the protection of the environment, and has achieved great strides in this area.

Head of the Palestinian delegation Shawqi Hawash reviewed the environmental problems facing the people in the self-rule areas of Palestine, drawing attention to Israel's continual destruction of natural resources by opening ring roads which involves uprooting trees and other plants, as well as confiscation of Arab-owned lands.

Participants in the 10-day seminar are 15 Palestinians from the ministries of Agriculture, Education, and Information and two Yemenis from the Environmental Protection Board.

The participants will receive practical training and visit various RSCN's wildlife reserves.

Jordan witnesses 14,665 occupational accidents in 1995

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour Sunday issued a statistical bulletin showing that a total of 14,665 occupational accidents occurred in Jordan during 1995; of those, 48.7 per cent were in the industrial sector, it said.

The statement said deaths caused by on-the-job accidents accounted for 0.26 per cent, and injuries accounted for 0.55 per cent of the total number of cases.

Material and financial losses from these incidents were estimated at JD 14.6 million. The statement said the majority of accidents, 26.2 per cent, was the result of mishandling of tools.

Of the total number of incidents, 10.8 per cent were accidents involving falls from elevated positions.

The majority of injuries were sustained from the lack of protective equipment, insufficient area for movement, lack of proper training in the use of equipment, unsanitary conditions and neglect of regulations protecting employees.

According to the report, of the total injuries sustained in these work-related incidents, eye injuries made up nearly 27.4 per cent, and feet and ankles injuries were 25.1 per cent.

Employees who sustained injuries missed a combined 97,522 working days.

The statement estimated the total number of workers employed in Jordan at 750,000, according to Ministry of Labour registers.

Ministry inspection teams, which the statement said regularly monitor businesses and factories, last year issued 1,235 warnings for violation of work safety regulations and ordered 37 businesses to close because of serious violations.



Chief Chamberlain HRH Prince Raad Bin Zeid Sunday meets with Minister of Education Munther Masri to discuss educational needs of the handicapped. Prince Raad called for providing necessary facilities to students with special needs in order to help them lead productive lives in their community. Dr. Masri briefed Prince Raad on the ministry's plans to work with the handicapped and expand their educational facilities and seek to meet their particular needs (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- Performance by Philadelphia Youth Orchestra at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Performance of Syrian folklore by the Heritage Band of Halabi Qudat at Artimes Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Recital of Lebanese folklore poetry of Zaghoul Al Damour Band at the Sound and Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Performance by the Jordanian Armed Forces Musical Band, the Nile Band of Popular Arts, Qatari National Band of Popular Art, and Al Hannonah Band at the Main Theatre at 6:30 p.m.
- Children's play "Once Upon A Time" (Arabic) at Gracia Theatre at 7:30 p.m.
- Concert by Spanish guitarist Miguel Angel Cortes at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.
- Poetry recital by Mubashad Al Harbi, Mamdouh Odwan, Aref Al Khajab, and Youssef Abdul Aziz at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.)

LECTURE

- "The Debacle of Bliss" (Arabic) by Abdul Wahab Al Massari from Egypt at Abdul Hammed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- "Muslims in Britain" exhibition at the British Council, until July 24.
- Exhibition of works by Sudanese artist Rashid Diab entitled "The Time of Silence" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists, until July 31.
- Ceramics exhibition at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagra Street (Tel. 699141/2), until July 25.

Italy, Jordan sign investment accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Italy and Jordan Sunday signed an agreement here guaranteeing the security of Italian investments in the Kingdom.

The contract, signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco Cerulli, protects Italian investments and makes it possible for investors to deposit, withdraw and transfer funds and capital with no restrictions.

The agreement, to go into effect after being approved by both governments, provides appropriate and effective measures for the protection of Italian investments and encourages joint ventures.

Jordan will respect and honour the rights of Italian investors in accordance with international laws and the regulations provided under

the Kingdom's Investment Promotion Law, according to the accord.

The contract is similar to agreements Jordan had signed earlier with several Arab and foreign countries.

The agreement was being negotiated over six months by teams from both countries.

Jordan earlier signed agreements guaranteeing investments and capital with the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland, Turkey, Romania, Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt and Malaysia.

Restaurant open from
12.30 pm - 3.30 pm
7.00 pm - 3.00 am

Pub open from
4.00 pm - 12.00 am

Disco open from
8.00 pm - 3.30 am

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Stallions Maestro
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The city of Liuzhou in Guangxi province was flooded except for a few areas of high ground after the waters of the Liujiang River rose to its highest mark in this century, a city government official said.

"The whole city is under water... Our most urgent problem is drinking water," the official said by telephone.

Rescue workers have airlifted 686 tonnes of food, 15 million bottles of mineral water, as well as medicines and candles to Liuzhou, which has a population of about 1.5 million.



Bangladeshi boys wander aimlessly on a boat Sunday as their Kalma village, 40 kilometres from Bangladesh capital Dhaka, is devastated by week-old floods triggered by heavy rain. The floods, which swept much of northern Bangladesh and districts surrounding Dhaka, have killed up to 70 people, and left millions homeless (Reuter photo)

Half of Bangladesh gripped by flash floods

DHAKA (AFP) — Flash floods have affected 2.2 million people across half of Bangladesh, the Relief Ministry reported Sunday, amid opposition criticism of government relief efforts.

A ministry spokesman said 33 of a total 64 administrative districts across the north, northwest and northeast of this riverine country have been hit by the floods, the second round since early June.

He said preliminary estimates put the losses into several million dollars, but exact figures were not yet available.

The spokesman put the official death toll in the most recent inundations at six people, although the unofficial count in more than two months of flooding stood at 31.

"The districts of Faridpur, Munshiganj and Manikganj were hit by the flash floods overnight and the government ... (is) sending aid to the affected people," the spokesman said, adding that the Red Crescent Society and other humanitarian agencies were helping with relief efforts.

"Government ministers are supervising aid operations in some areas along with army and paramilitary troops," he said.

An aide to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed said she was monitoring the situation.

Main opposition leader and ex-Premier Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party charged that the government has failed to provide adequate aid to the flood victims.

"The ruling Awami League has failed to discharge its duty in aiding adequately the flood victims," the Independent newspaper quoted her as saying Sunday.

Accompanied by her elder son Tarek, Mrs. Khaleda started a three-day tour Friday of some of the flood-affected areas, including her constituency of northern Bogra district.

The government's flood forecasting centre said central and southern Bangladesh, as yet unaffected by the latest flooding, would be hit during the next several days, but the situation would remain static in most other areas.

The worst-hit north and northwestern districts of Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Pan-

chagarh and Dinajpur were likely to improve Sunday, it predicted.

However, river water levels rose further Sunday, with some major rivers exceeding danger levels. Light to heavy rains were forecast across Bangladesh Sunday.

A local official from northern Gaibandha district said by telephone that thousands of people were forced to leave their homes for higher ground as flood waters drained into the Bay of Bengal.

Embankments have been washed away or damaged by surging waters, he said.

Transport in a number of districts was disrupted by the annual flooding, caused by monsoon rains and runoff from the hills in neighbouring India, which damaged roads and culverts.

ASEAN ministers end annual meeting South China Sea emerges as toughest issue

JAKARTA (R) — The foreign ministers of seven South East Asian nations ended their two-day annual meeting Sunday with a carefully worded communique reflecting consensus on a wide range of issues and avoiding controversy over Burma.

The toughest language was reserved for the long-running territorial dispute in the South China Sea, which remained "a major concern" for members of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations).

ASEAN includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines and Brunei, with Laos and Cambodia due to join next year, and Burma sometime in the future.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who arrived in Jakarta Sunday, was expected to face questions during the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) this week on Beijing's May statement that China was vastly expanding its sovereignty in the potentially oil-rich sea — a move hotly disputed by other regional states.

"There is no intention to take on China, but definitely there is a consensus there about China over the South China Sea," a senior ASEAN source said.

Other contentious issues such as Burma, the situation on the Korean

peninsula and the nuclear test ban treaty are also expected to come up during the ARF meetings and bilateral talks between ASEAN states and their "dialogue partners."

The ARF, which already comprises representatives of major world powers including the United States, European Union, China and Russia, is being expanded to 21 with the addition of India and Burma. China, India and Russia will also be accorded full dialogue status.

Winding up the weekend meeting, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the ministers had evaluated and examined progress in the region in which ASEAN had "contributed to positive developments...fostered habits of dialogue and cooperation and served as a catalyst for crucial undertakings."

ASEAN rolled out the red-carpet to welcome Burma as an observer to the group in the face of strong Western criticism of the country's military rulers and their confrontation with democracy activists headed by Aung San Suu Kyi.

ASEAN has rejected Western calls for sanctions on Burma to force political change.

Thai Foreign Minister Amnuay Viravan told reporters Bangkok shared

some of the concerns of Western nations over developments in Burma, but believed ASEAN's quiet policy of "constructive engagement" was the best approach and had born fruit.

In his closing address Mr. Alatas said ASEAN had "moved considerably closer to the realisation of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality." This had been made possible by the signing of a treaty of amity and cooperation and a treaty for a nuclear weapons-free zone in the region signed by all 10 countries in South East Asia.

"In the economic field, we have focused on the theme of greater economic integration and thereby accelerated and deepened our common commitments under AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area)," Mr. Alatas said.

The ASEAN communique covered a wide range of geopolitical and economic issues.

It noted that the situation in the Asia-Pacific region was "relatively stable and peaceful" although tensions existed. It called for resumed dialogue between the two Koreas and emphasised the 1953 armistice agreement should remain valid until a peace accord was reached.

China airlifts food, water to flood victims

BEIJING (R) — Rescue workers have airlifted hundreds of tonnes of food and more than one million bottles of mineral water to a city in southwest China swamped by floods, officials and state media said Sunday.

The city of Liuzhou in Guangxi province was flooded except for a few areas of high ground after the water level of Liujiang River surged to its highest mark this century, a city government official said.

"The whole city is under water... Our most urgent problem is drinking water," the official said by telephone.

Rescue workers have airlifted 686 tonnes of food, 1.55 million bottles of mineral water, as well as medicine and candles to Liuzhou, which has a population of about one million, the Xinhua Daily Telegraph newspaper said.

Three-fourths of the city have had no water or electricity for days, the Wen Hui Bao newspaper said. All rail and road transport has been disrupted, it said.

The situation appeared to have stabilised Sunday, with the water level receding by eight to nine metres, the official said.

The floods have killed at least 716 people across south and central China and left millions homeless or stranded.

Nearly four million people across China had been cut off by flood waters, 810,000 homes had collapsed and 2.8 million homes had been damaged in eight provinces, Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs Fan Baojun said last week, giving details of natural disasters across China up to July 18.

The People's Liberation Army has issued a circular urging the nation's three

million soldiers not to fear fighting the floods, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

"They must dash to the most dangerous places, and appear where they are most needed," the circular said.

The military has been airlifting relief goods and medical supplies to victims.

In Jingzhou county in central Hubei province, two policemen drowned when they were washed away by rising waters while evacuating flood victims, Xinhua said.

In neighbouring Hunan province, police have arrested several thieves and averted 40 million yuan (\$4.8 million) in losses, the Liberation Daily said.

The total death toll from all natural disasters, including earthquakes, hailstorms, floods and drought, in the first six months of 1996 was 1,875, with total economic losses estimated at 71 billion yuan (\$8.55 billion)

and 200 million people affected. Vice-Minister Fan said.

The floods hit at a critical time for crops, with harvests just being gathered in and fields being prepared for autumn sowing. Floods since mid-June had damaged 9.6 million hectares (23.72 million acres) of farmland, with crops completely lost on 1.04 million hectares (2.57 million acres).

Total economic losses from the floods in Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Anhui, Guizhou, Guangxi and Jiangsu provinces were estimated at nearly 40 billion yuan (\$4.82 billion), the vice-minister said.

The southwestern province of Guizhou was the worst hit with 252 people killed, 250,000 forced to leave their homes and 69,000 houses destroyed.

Fierce Russian offensive continues against Chechen forces in Shatoi

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian warplanes resumed their bombardment of rebel positions around the southern village of Shatoi Sunday for a second consecutive day, the Interfax News Agency reported.

Both sides were claiming to have inflicted heavy losses, though casualty figures vary wildly according to sources. However, there is no doubt about the intensity of the Russian airborne and artillery offensive on this upland rebel stronghold of the breakaway Caucasus republic.

A spokesman for the separatist Chechen leadership, Movladi Udugov, told AFP by telephone that at least one Russian helicopter and plane had been destroyed by Saturday afternoon, together with a dozen armoured vehicles, though this has not been confirmed by the Russians.

Russia reported six of its soldiers dead, and put the number of Chechen fatalities at 60, while Mr. Udugov said Chechen dead only

numbered five and that some 150 Russians had been killed. It was impossible to independently verify either side's figures.

Bad weather Saturday slowed the Russian offensive. However, by the afternoon Russian units had penetrated the Chechen's first line of defence.

Throughout the night, Russian aircraft kept up their attacks on the area, providing support for tanks. Bombardments began anew early Sunday morning, said Mr. Udugov.

"Today the fighting is taking place principally around Borzoi," a village about eight miles to the south of Shatoi, said Mr. Udugov.

Russian military spokesman Igor Melnikov was quoted as saying that between 250 and 300 Chechen fighters are dug in at Shatoi.

But Mr. Udugov denied Russian reports that the region was home to a reinforced separatist base. "These are just volunteers who are defending their village," he said.

Russian forces had been preparing for the offensive since the middle of the week, and large numbers of reinforcements and supplies were assembled around the village. Around 100 armoured vehicles were positioned some 12 miles north of Shatoi.

Their planes have been bombarding mountain villages in the southeast of Chechnya over the past two weeks in violation of a fragile ceasefire which has theoretically been in force since June 1.

The war has already claimed an estimated 40,000 lives, mostly civilians, since Moscow sent its troops to Chechnya in December 1994 to crush an independence bid.

Between Tuesday and Friday, Russian forces rained bombs on the regions of Shatoi, Ium-Khale, Mekhety and Vedeno, all still under separatist control.

An AFP correspondent in the area said splinter bombs and large calibre multiple rocket-launchers had also

been used Saturday.

The villages in the south-eastern mountains are the last bastions of the separatists and many of their inhabitants have fled the incessant bombing of the past two weeks.

The offensive will complicate the resumption of peace talks, which were broken off some two weeks ago.

Chechen separatist Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov agreed Saturday to meet General Anatoly Kvashnin, Russian commander in the north. Caucasus, the rebels' official agency Chechen press reported, without specifying a date.

The agency said Gen. Kvashnin requested the meeting to discuss ending the encirclement of Chechen areas by Russian troops, the withdrawal of Russian forces from the breakaway republic and other aspects of military accords signed on June 10 at Nazran, Ingushetia.

Strikes paralyse Pakistan

KARACHI (AFP) — Strikes called by the opposition parties and transport operators to protest against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's policies crippled life across Pakistan Sunday, witnesses said.

An opposition-sponsored shutdown hit most cities in Sind, the southern province of Ms. Bhutto, who left earlier on an official visit to South Korea.

Nine parties called the stoppage as part of a campaign to force Ms. Bhutto to resign and hold snap elections under a caretaker administration, a demand rejected by the prime minister as an insult to the people's mandate.

Ms. Bhutto, who has said elections will take place as scheduled in 1998, is accused by the opposition of corruption, incompetence and economic mismanagement.

Throughout Sunday, which is a normal working day in Pakistan, banks, markets and shops were closed in the provincial capital Karachi, the country's industrial and commercial centre.

Most parts of the city looked deserted with little traffic on the roads, with paramilitary Rangers and police guarding key buildings.

Karachi police said a policeman was shot and injured by snipers while groups of unidentified men burnt tyres and hurled stones at vehicles in some areas of the city. Police said they had made about a dozen arrests.

The Karachi Stock Exchange opened but closed shortly afterwards because of lack of trading. Hundreds of industrial units and government offices were also badly affected because of the lack of manpower.

Cargo activity at Karachi Port remained sluggish, authorities said.

The strike was also observed in Sind's other cities including Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah and Mirpurkhas, reports reaching here said.

The stoppage was called by nine opposition parties including the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League of former Premier Nawaz Sharif, the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement and the fundamentalist Jamaat-I-Islami.

Syed Qaim Ali Shah, provincial head of ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), condemned the action as a "conspiracy" to destabilise the government.

On Saturday, Jamaat-I-Islami leaders embarked on a 1,000-kilometre train journey across the country to mobilise support for their anti-government drive.

Taiwan pledges work with China over disputed isle

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwanese officials pledged rare cooperation with rival China Sunday in the simmering dispute with Japan over conflicting claims to the Diaoyu Islands.

Some 200 Taiwanese fishing boats also prepared to put to sea to protest against the construction of a makeshift lighthouse on one of the deserted islands by the rightist Japan Youth Federation.

"The two (Chinese) sides should discard political differences and together present an active and strong position toward the Diaoyu, China's historic territory," said Chiao Jen-Jo, secretary-general of the Straits Exchange Foundation, which handles links with rival Beijing.

The islands in the East China Sea, about 200 kilometres east of Taiwan and 300 kilometres west of Japan's island of Okinawa, are claimed by Tokyo, Beijing and Taipei.

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Throughout Sunday, which is a normal working day in Pakistan, banks, markets and shops were closed in the provincial capital Karachi, the country's industrial and commercial centre.

Most parts of the city looked deserted with little traffic on the roads, with paramilitary Rangers and police guarding key buildings.

Karachi police said a policeman was shot and injured by snipers while groups of unidentified men burnt tyres and hurled stones at vehicles in some areas of the city. Police said they had made about a dozen arrests.

The Karachi Stock Exchange opened but closed shortly afterwards because of lack of trading. Hundreds of industrial units and government offices were also badly affected because of the lack of manpower.

Cargo activity at Karachi Port remained sluggish, authorities said.

The strike was also observed in Sind's other cities including Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah and Mirpurkhas, reports reaching here said.

The stoppage was called by nine opposition parties including the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League of former Premier Nawaz Sharif, the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement and the fundamentalist Jamaat-I-Islami.

Syed Qaim Ali Shah, provincial head of ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), condemned the action as a "conspiracy" to destabilise the government.

On Saturday, Jamaat-I-Islami leaders embarked on a 1,000-kilometre train journey across the country to mobilise support for their anti-government drive.

China and Taiwan, which challenge Japan's claim to what Tokyo calls the Senkaku, have both denounced the recent building of a makeshift lighthouse on one of the islands.

Taiwan's governor, James Soong, urged China to use the same kind of determination it showed in March when it held military exercises near Taiwan. That show of force was aimed partly at keeping the island's voters from supporting a pro-independence candidate in Taiwan's presidential elections.

China has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of the civil war in 1949.

Mr. Soong told reporters China should use its military might "to let the international community understand (the) Chinese people's determination to maintain our national territory."

Meanwhile, lawmakers and fishermen in northern Hainan county, which claims

jurisdiction over the Diaoyu, said some 200 boats would sail to the islands on July 31 in protest.

"We know the Japanese will stop us when we near the islands..." legislator Yang Chi-Hsiung told Reuters by phone. "But this is a peaceful protest to maintain national dignity...not to cause a fight."

"Fishermen are so angry that they definitely more than 200 boats will join the protest," Lin Yuan-Chi, director of the Northern Suao Fishery Association, said by telephone from Suao village.

Most of Suao's 1,400 boats fish near the Diaoyu and are often stopped by Japan's Coast Guard from entering a 12-mile exclusion zone around the islands, he said.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry over the weekend said Taipei would not yield one inch of the islands, to which Japan claims a clear historical right.

Queen worried about security at Diana's villa

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana's choice of a south of France villa to spend her summer holiday with her sons is raising serious security concerns at Buckingham Palace, a British newspaper said Sunday.

The Mail on Sunday said the palace believes it was "reckless" to choose a villa which does not meet the high security standards demanded by the queen for Prince William, next in line to the throne after his father Prince Charles.

Princess Diana flew to the French Riviera with her sons Prince William, 14, and 11-year-old Prince Harry and the Duchess of York and her two children just days after her divorce proceedings against Prince Charles were started.

The royal entourage are staying at Le Clos Seillans, 30 kilometres from the coast, which is believed to be owned by a friend of the duchess.

"It is rapidly becoming a holiday circus out there. The security problems are enormous and somehow it does not seem appropriate that Prince William and his brother are in such an atmosphere," the newspaper quoted a senior palace source as saying.

The newspaper added that plans will be drawn up for her to the throne Prince Charles and the queen to be consulted in future over holiday locations.

The queen is so concerned about the safety of her grandchildren that she is being kept informed with daily reports, it said.

Princess Diana and the duchess, who was divorced from Prince Andrew, the queen's second son, earlier this year, have been besieged at the villa by photographers.

They plan to file charges against a French freelancer and a local news agency photographer who were arrested in the grounds of

the property, French police say.

The intruders gained access to the estate despite the presence of British bodyguards, French police and patrol dogs.

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation
congratulates **The student**
Kaid Khudir Afghani
for his success in Tawjihi with good marks. The foundation wishes success to all its children in all the different levels of education.
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab press daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696153

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Discovering road to distinction

THE RESULTS of the high school, Tawjihi, examinations that were released on Friday show two very striking revelations. One, that among the top 45 achievers in the Kingdom in both the literary and science streams students, 20 come from private schools. Two, that among the top 20 students, 14 are girls. In 1995 all 10 top achievers in the science stream were females.

Such results are only two examples of what could be noticed and observed at a glance. Yet they are quite telling.

The fact that almost half of the top 45 achievers went to private schools is testimony that those places of learning, though they do not accommodate more than 10 per cent of the whole student population of more than one million, are able to offer their students better education.

In 1994 and 1995, 22 per cent and 33 per cent of the private schools' students scored 95 per cent or higher in their tests.

One could find, for example, that graduates of those schools do better at foreign languages, mainly English, which in turn helps them to study abroad, or gives them, during their university life and later in life itself, access to reference books in English and better opportunities at employment. No one is advocating the use of English as the language of education; we merely note that, at the moment, the use of original reference books in English is preferable to the use of translated material, taking into consideration the very poor quality of translated works.

The fact that 70 per cent of the top achievers are girls is also food for thought. While we trust that the Ministry of Education and the universities would do their own analysis of this finding, others may venture to offer their own.

Girls, mostly confined to their homes while their brothers have the liberty to go out, find solace in their books and in doing their homework. But more importantly the female students who are discriminated against at home, in the workplace and in society at large do exert greater effort to improve their chances and opportunities in life.

Whether these conclusions are right or wrong is certainly not for us to decide. What is important, though, is that the phenomena themselves should not go unnoticed and unexamined. Their study is essential for the success of the educational process, which in itself is central to development and progress in any society.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily reflected on the Arab Nation's weakness with regard to their quest to restore the occupied lands, especially Palestine. After the 1948 war, the Arabs stopped the fighting and started seeking joint efforts to liberate the whole Palestinian lands, said Munes Razzaz. After the 1967 war, the Arab countries forgot about the lands occupied in the 1948 war and demanded that Israel only pull out its forces from the West Bank and Gaza — the areas occupied in the 1967 war, he said. After the Camp David and Oslo agreements and the Wadi Araba treaty, continued the writer, the Arabs called for the creation of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and demanded that Israel pull out its forces from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region. But soon afterwards, the Arabs demanded only the return of Arab Jerusalem and the exchange of Lebanese and Syrian lands for peace with the Jewish state, he noted. However, these demands have lately shrunk and the Palestinians are now concerned with the redeployment of Israeli forces after pulling out from Hebron, according to the writer who said that while Israel gradually won, the Arabs have been on the retreat all the time.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily criticised calls made by the presidents of the Amman chambers of industry and trade for ending the role of the Ministry of Supply in controlling prices of basic commodities. Any floating of prices would automatically prompt merchants to increase prices and there would not be any limit to their greed, said Yousef Abdullah Mahmoud. In the absence of government control over basic items, the limited-income groups will fall victim to the whims and greed of the merchants who, experience proved, stop at nothing to outbid one another in trying to amass fortunes at the expense of the public, most of whom fall within the limited-income category, said the writer. Lifting the ministry's control on prices could be in harmony with the so-called market economy, but such a move would be an act of injustice in a society of limited-income people like those of Jordan, he added. The writer said that an end to the Ministry of Supply's role would mean the start of unending misery for the Jordanians who will be at the mercy of greedy merchants.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Monopolies and the Ministry of Supply

ALMOST A week ago, the president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry issued a joint statement to the press in which they expressed their support for the new bread subsidy scheme and called for the dismantling of the Ministry of Supply because, they claimed, of the countless market imperfections it created.

To the scions of commerce and industry, the ministry simply stood for inefficiency, price controls which everybody knows are harmful to market and competition, and for "strangling the creativity of the Jordanian entrepreneur" by limiting the available price options. Supply and demand must be left alone, not hampered by regulation, to rule the market and determine prices and output, they say. However, considering that it is the supply side that is speaking in defence of the market, one must be weary of such messages and seek out the voice of demand which may tell a different story.

Jordan suffers from high rates of poverty, unemployment, hidden unemployment (creating unnecessary "no-jobs" simply to employ people) and underemployment (hiring people to work in jobs that are below their skill and training levels). The disparity in income between the rich and the poor is so high that Jordan may be a true example of why we really need to scrap the whole school of supply side economics (which preaches reducing taxes on the rich so that they can save more, generate investments to hire the masses and thus create the trickle down effect) and throw it away into oblivion — it has failed everywhere else, anyway. Therefore, regulation cannot be viewed as a luxury that could easily be discarded; it is a necessity that is brought about, at least partially, by dire socio-economic conditions which cannot be removed overnight.

Furthermore, an outcry against regulation is not automatically welcome by economists because not one economist will be able to prove the existence of perfect markets which are the underlying bases for supply and demand models.

A perfectly competitive market is one where a countless number of extremely small firms compete in such a way that a firm is unable to affect price; all the market players are effortlessly and perfectly informed about price and quantity (the latter is identical in this market type) and all adjustments are instantaneous, with no surpluses or shortages. In such a market there are no monopolies which are normally considered as inefficient and wasteful of scarce resources. Of course, a perfect market only exists on paper and has value only for the abstract models of the academician, and no value whatsoever for the realistic economists that concern themselves with the study of empirical markets.

In real markets, there are factors that cause imperfections: pollution generated by industry; lack of available information at least to one party in the market (information asymmetry); governmental controls such as price ceilings, quotas and subsidies; and monopolistic practices by market firms. In other words, the Ministry of Supply is not the only source of market imperfections in Jordan and we are definitely not ready yet to start trusting our environment, product quality, safety standards and the availability of goods and services at semi-market prices to the ethics, morals and judgements of business people. Especially since most of the consumers are uninformed about the market and most of the supply of necessary products is in the hands of a few cartels.

One could easily evidence monopolistic practices across most industries and trade sectors in Jordan where monopolists squeeze out their rivals through dumping and other barriers to market entry. The coffee cartel — which to the dismay of many ordinary folks was so vehemently defended by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce — was only one example of how citizens could be gouged mercilessly by the private-sector price controllers of an addictive, or at least habit forming, product such as coffee. The cartel's bidding was forced upon the rest of the market, not by supply and demand but through the control of supply; and not through competitive acts but through monopolistic, anti-market practices which would have been considered criminal in other countries.

Yes, before one talks of market imperfections and the inadequacies of price ceilings and government regulation, one must focus, first, on those anti-competitive practices of businesses in Jordan, where innovation and competition is replaced by lethargy and monopoly which restrict output and employment and further increase human suffering through higher prices.

And before one questions the need for regulation, one must ask and attempt to answer the following questions:

— Will the businessperson voluntarily disclose the true quality of the product to the consumer?

— Will cheaters and fakers voluntarily stop such practices because they think that the consumer may discover their cheating and refuse to buy their products?

— Will polluters buy expensive equipment to reduce pollution and not dump their waste in close-by areas and, instead, go to special dump sites which are usually far and hard to get to?

If the answer is yes to all the above, then you agree with the trade and industry leaders that we do not need the Ministry of Supply. However, if you do believe that businesspeople do have an incentive not to do any of the above, then you, too, will agree that regulation is here to stay, and for a very long time.

Accountability and Africa

By Gwynne Dyer

"THERE IS an almost frantic amassing of weapons of all kinds by each group. We must not let a replay of the 1994 Rwanda tragedy take place," said Tanzanian President Ben Mkapa last month, opening a regional conference on how to prevent a similar genocide in Burundi. And for once, it did not just end in empty words: Africa is finally starting to take responsibility for its own disasters.

For a generation, Africa's governments have excused or ignored almost any atrocity committed in a country ruled by Africans. It was partly the need to keep up a common front against the remaining imperialists, partly an acute nervousness about their own fragile sovereignty. But it did mean swallowing many disgusting things.

Equatorial Guinea's Francisco Macias Nguema, the Central African Republic's Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, Uganda's Idi Amin Dada — monsters of cruelty and depravity — would seize power in some African country, torture and massacre people in industrial quantities, even eat human flesh, and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) would resolutely look the other way. At last, however, the tide is starting to turn.

Late last month, in the Tanzanian town of Arusha, East African leaders summoned Burundi's president and prime minister and extracted their consent to what was euphemistically described as "security assistance". Burundi is teetering on the brink of a genocide as bad as the one that killed up to a million people in neighbouring Rwanda in 1994 — 150,000 people have already been murdered in Burundi in the past three years — and the African leaders demanded that their troops be "invited" in to stop it.

Burundi's Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo repudiated the accord as soon as he got home, insisting that only

President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya had assented. (Nduwayo represents Burundi's ruling minority tribe, the Tutsis; the relatively powerless Ntibantunganya comes from the oppressed Hutu majority.) It was a familiar pattern — but then Nduwayo got a rude shock.

Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, chief mediator between Burundi's Tutsi-dominated government and the rebel Hutu militias, said bluntly in Dar-es-Salaam on July 9 that Nduwayo had agreed to the intervention too. He would not now be allowed to withdraw his consent. If necessary, East African troops would invade Burundi to halt the spreading ethnic massacres.

The OAU summit meeting in Cameroon on July 10 was just as tough, strongly backing Nyerere's initiative. For good measure, it also threatened Liberia's warlords with a United Nations war crimes tribunal if they do not submerge their differences and reach a lasting solution to the six-year civil war this month.

"African governments are starting to realise that they simply cannot let the continent go on bleeding to death, and that they have both the power and the responsibility to stop it."

So the questions naturally arise: Have Africa's leaders finally discovered both their consciences and their spines? And if so, why now?

One reason for the new sense of purpose is self-preservation. The 1994 genocide in Rwanda sent almost 2 million people spilling across the borders

into neighbouring Tanzania and Zaire, where most of them languish to this day. A full-fledged civil war in Burundi could set as many more people in motion — and this time, the regional consequences could be even worse.

"If there is no intervention by the international community, very tough and very rapid intervention, the conflict is going to get worse, and it will not only affect Burundi," warns Jean-Marie Ngendahayo, a former Burundi foreign minister who has fled to South Africa. "It will have a direct impact on Rwanda, Zaire, Uganda, and even Tanzania. The whole Great Lakes sub-region will burn."

In other words, there is a great deal of self-interest in the plan for intervention in Burundi. Nothing to be ashamed of in that: the main reason that countries anywhere contribute to international peace keeping is to keep violence and lawlessness from spreading and threatening their own security.

But there is something else at work here, too.

Other refugees from crossing the borders into their own territory. But you can hardly accuse more distant countries like Ethiopia and Uganda of self-serving cynicism. Nor has the United States, which has promised financial aid and logistical support to the intervention force, any particular axe to grind in East Africa.

So assuming that the intervention force actually comes to pass, and takes charge of protecting people from ethnic violence in Burundi (first fighting its way in, if necessary), will it succeed?

It would have to be big (at least 20,000 troops) and heavily armed to deal with dissident units in the Tutsi-run army, and also with the three Hutu militias that control most of the rural areas of northern Burundi after dark. It would have to stay a long time, and effectively put the Burundi government under tutelage until new elections could be held. But it can be done, if the will is there.

The will does now seem to be there. The transition to a non-racial democratic government in South Africa has removed other African countries' last excuse for soft-peddling violence and injustice elsewhere in Africa, and the relentless, continentwide slide into chaos has finally stirred alarm in some key capitals.

Rwandan President Casimir Bizimungu put it best. Speaking at the recent OAU summit in Cameroon, he was arguing against OAU endorsement of a second term for U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali (who, as an Egyptian, is technically African).

Bizimungu argued that Dr. Ghali had betrayed Africa by failing to organise swift U.N. intervention in Rwanda in 1994. "Some people have said we should support his candidacy because of African solidarity," said Bizimungu. "But African solidarity also means accountability." And slowly, hesitantly, his colleagues are starting to accept that logic.

Human Rights File

The price of health

By Waleed M. Sadi

ISN'T IT shocking that some people are still watering their farms with heavily polluted water from the Zarqa stream? The stream must be the most polluted water basin due to the kind of industrial waste that is dumped into, over and above the raw sewage that it contains. Yet farmers are still irrigating their lands on both sides of the stream and growing vegetables of all sorts for human consumption. True, there is a sign somewhere cautioning farmers not to use the polluted water and authorities have repeatedly raided the area and found the produce on the farms not fit for human consumption. What one cannot understand is how people manage to grow some of our foodstuffs in the vicinity of a basin of water notorious for the poisons that it contains.

Has there even been any attempt to prosecute such people who deliberately play with human life? Is it enough to confiscate and destroy life-threatening agricultural products on a random basis? Surely there must be more effective ways of dealing with farmers who put human life in jeopardy in order to make an easy dinar.

Then we are told that people still fish in the waters of King Talal Dam even though there is a sign of some sort prohibiting fishing in the heavily polluted waters of the dam. When such reckless behaviour is added to the kind of uncontrollable use of pesticides and insecticides, are we not raising a new generation of Jordanians bound to develop all sorts of diseases and ailments, including cancer?

The other day I read an interview with some officials defending feeding chicken with meat left over from the vital organs of cows and sheep. Now we are told that all the world is feeding their chicken with animal-based food in order to make them grow faster and fatter! Haven't we learned from the experience of Britain and other Western countries which mass produce cows by feeding them food unnatural to hoofed animals and in a way that the unsuspecting animals are turning to carnivores?

Must we become party to the wider commercial conspiracy of spreading madcow disease to chicken or sheep by interfering with nature so wantonly and irresponsibly all for the sake of easy gains?

We must first of all call on our Consumer Protection Society and the Society for the Protection of the Environment to come down from their ivory towers and start rolling up their sleeves in the fight against nature, environment, animal and human lives.

The people of this country hardly hear of any action by these national groups of people who are supposed to be dedicated to preserving the delicate and precarious relationship between man and the environment.

The more one thinks about this growing problem, the more one becomes convinced that we need stiffer laws against all threats to life. Our criminal code needs to be amended so that heavy penalties may be imposed on all people who supply us with the

wrong kind of food, be it fish, vegetables or meat. For starters, I would like to see all farmers who use wrong kinds of insecticides or pesticides severely punished. The same kind of treatment should be meted to farmers who knowingly use polluted water to irrigate their lands and to people engaged in the meat or poultry industry who seek to hasten the growth of their animals by unnatural means. There is no escape from the conclusion that short of heavy penalties, some people will never learn how to treat their fellow citizens fairly and humanely.

"And if the law does not act, we, the people, must take our own actions against those who hold our lives in contempt."

And if the law does not act, we, the people, must take our own actions against those who hold our lives in contempt. For one, people may choose to become vegetarians and grow their own produce. Many people have small gardens in their backyard which can be easily turned into small farms for producing basic vegetables. Then of course, we can always encourage farmers to grow vegetables or raise cows, sheep and goats organically by providing them with incentives for doing so.

"As long as there is a ceiling on the price farmers can charge their customers, irrespective of how they conduct their business, organic farming can never become profitable."

As long as there is a ceiling on the price farmers can charge their customers, irrespective of how they conduct their business, organic farming can never become profitable. There are many people who are willing to pay a higher price for their agricultural products if given a choice between what is currently being produced and what could be produced in a more sane and healthy manner.

Feature

Opposition

defy ban

(Continued from page 1)

House of Parliament. Saad Al-Sayid and deliver a memorandum signed by 100 citizens demanding that the government rescind its decision concerning the subsidy on bread.

The memorandum was submitted to the House Speaker, who promised that the House would pressure the government to rescind its decision. A no-confidence motion in Parliament.

Letting the subsidy on bread go only a financial disaster for the nation, but rather a matter of national pride. The government's decision to ignore the memorandum towards the people's demand that the IMF programme be terminated to cause harm to the health and economy of the country.

Some of the protesters said that the government had imposed a ban on the bread. The memorandum demanded that the government stop the ban and stop the IMF programme. The protesters said that the government's decision was a betrayal of the people's trust.

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OF Culture

Wishes to Apologize the Cancellation of the Due to Force Majeure

* Trakia Folklore (Tues., Wed. 23, 24/7/96)

* Maria Jose Morais (Thurs. 25/7/96 (Royal Chamber Music Sun. 28/7/96 (Ajloun

High oil prices boost economy, reserves of Arab Gulf countries

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oil-rich Arab Gulf states are boosting their financial reserves and their economy performed well in the first half of 1996 after a surge in oil prices, experts have said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which control around 45 per cent of the world's proven crude reserves, earned at least \$5.7 billion in additional revenue in the first half of 1996.

The calculation was based on an average price of OPEC's seven crudes of \$18.85 in the first six months of 1996 compared with the \$15-\$16 price projected by the GCC governments in their budgets.

"There could be a surplus in the GCC budgets in the first half provided they stuck to their projected expenditure," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank, the biggest bank in Saudi Arabia.

"But the improvement in oil prices is helping the GCC countries to replenish their foreign reserves and meet their commitments to foreign suppliers, whether military or civilian," he told AFP by telephone.

Mr. Azzam's figures showed that Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer

and exporter, increased its foreign reserves to around \$11 billion by the end of April from \$8.6 billion by the end of December.

Kuwait's reserves also grew to nearly \$3.7 billion from \$3.5 billion. Mr. Azzam said he did not have figures for May and June but expected the reserves to be higher as oil prices remained strong.

"In general, the oil price improvement helps the finances of the GCC countries and their balances of payments as it increases their liquidity. Regarding the budgets, the price rise could have a very positive impact but we do not know how much they are actually spending," he said.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — produce around 13.5 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil. Nearly 11.2 million bpd are exported, according to official figures.

Oil provides more than 80 per cent of the income of GCC countries and this has made their economies and budgets highly vulnerable to price fluctuations.

Many of them have launched reforms to diversify sources of income and restore balance to their economies after a sharp slow-

down. Most members of the 15-year-old Gulf economic, political and defence alliance forecast a minimum oil price of \$15-\$16 in calculating their budgets to neutralise the effects of price changes.

This explains the persistence of projected high deficits in their budgets.

According to Mohammad Al Asumi, chief economist at the state-controlled Emirates Industrial Bank, the combined GCC budget deficit was estimated at around \$11.5 billion in 1996. Saudi Arabia had a shortfall of \$4.9 billion, slightly higher than the \$4 billion deficit in 1995 but far lower than the record \$31.6 billion in 1991. Mr. Asumi said the price rise in the first half of 1996 would support the GCC's economies as it meant higher growth in the energy sector.

"The improvement in oil prices will also help those countries in their efforts to lessen the deficit in their budgets," he said.

"But I don't think there will be a surplus or the deficit will be totally eliminated this year. The price improvement is not big enough to wipe out the shortfall and the governments could be tempted to spend more."

OECD sees little improvement in unemployment

PARIS (R) — Rich countries appear to face a stark choice over the next few years between persistently high jobless rates or freer labour markets which, while they may create more jobs, still condemn some people to poverty, the OECD suggested Monday.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a report on the outlook for employment that its forecasts "suggest little improvement in unemployment over the next two years".

But in a switch of emphasis for the Paris-based policy forum, it said high unemployment was only one sign of poor labour market performance in many countries.

"OECD societies also

confront some worrying inequalities which are straining the social fabric," it said. "In some countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, earnings have become considerably more unequal," it added.

"When inequality widens, this can lead to more marginalisation, an increase in poverty, and exacerbation of budgetary pressure on existing social safety nets," it said.

It said it saw the jobless rate standing at 7.6 per cent or nearly 34 million people for all countries in the OECD in 1997 compared with 7.7 per cent in 1996.

It saw wide differences between regions, with unemployment within the European Union standing at 11.3 per cent in 1997 after

11.4 per cent in 1996. This compared with a forecast of 5.6 per cent in the United States in 1997 after 5.5 per cent in 1996 and to a rate of only 3.2 per cent in Japan in 1997 after 3.3 per cent in 1996.

The forecasts were similar to those already published in the OECD's half-year Economic Outlook in June.

But in a switch of emphasis for the usually conservative OECD, it shied away from offering up a standard free market recipe for cutting unemployment — lowering the cost of labour by driving down wages and making labour markets more flexible.

Any reforms would have to make a trade-off between providing adequate safety nets for the unemployed

and low-paid workers and avoiding heavy taxes on labour to pay for these, it said.

Countries would have to work out how to tackle both an unemployment trap, where high benefits deter people from seeking work, as well as a poverty trap, where high marginal tax rates deter low paid workers from trying to raise their earnings.

Taxes on labour could increase its cost and reduce employment. But revenues were needed to pay benefits for those with low incomes. "Nearly all reforms which 'make work pay' involve trade-offs between these objectives," it said.

It called for further studies on the way labour markets work to try to decide the best path for reform.

UAE ministries urged to control expenditure, upgrade efficiency and boost resources

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has repeated calls to federal ministries to tighten expenditure in 1997 to tackle a budget deficit and set them a Sept. 14 deadline to present their budgets.

In a letter published in local newspapers, Finance and Industry Minister Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum set the deadline for the 24 ministries and other federal departments.

"Revenues for fiscal year 1997 are expected to be equivalent to those in the previous year," Sheikh Hamdan told the ministries. "You are asked to cooperate with the finance and industry ministry to achieve a balance between spending and revenues. There is a pressing need to control expenditure, upgrade efficiency and boost your resources."

The letter, a customary

practice ahead of the drafting of the federal budget, warned the ministries there would be no allocations for new projects unless 80 per cent of the existing projects have been completed.

Sheikh Hamdan said the UAE's recent belt-tightening policy prompted by weak oil prices had proved fruitful as the federal budget deficit had been either wiped out or sharply reduced.

Official figures showed a projected deficit of around \$380 million in 1994 turned into a surplus of \$149 million, while in 1995 the budget suffered a real deficit of around \$256 million which was lower than the projected shortfall of 290 million. Bankers attributed the 1995 deficit to a sharp increase in expenditure to around 17.8 billion dirhams (\$4.85 billion) in 1995 from nearly

15.89 billion dirhams (\$4.32 billion) in 1994.

They said the government hiked expenditure apparently tempted by an increase of \$1.5 in oil prices in 1995, which brought in around \$1.2 billion in extra income.

Oil exports provide more than 80 per cent of the UAE's total income and the decline in crude prices over the past decade has turned its financial surplus into deficits and forced it to introduce austerity measures.

Federal ministries have also been urged to rein in spending in 1996, with the

deficit projected at \$240 million.

Bankers said the deficit could be easily tackled in 1996 unless the government was encouraged by high oil prices again to boost spending. They estimated an improvement in oil prices during the first half of the year had earned the UAE more than \$500 million in additional revenue.

But Sheikh Hamdan told the ministries: "Any improvement in the national income will be used to settle outstanding dues and restore balance to the federal budget so it will not be issued with a deficit."

Cyprus eases investment rules

NICOSIA (R) — Foreign investors no longer need prior approval from the Central Bank of Cyprus to acquire stakes in companies listed on the Cyprus Stock Exchange (CSE), the bank has announced.

"The practical result of this authorisation is that transactions will be completed without the need of the central bank approving every case separately, which was the practice up until now," the bank said.

In the first major step towards deregulation of foreign investment on the island, the central bank also announced increases in the stakes a foreign investor could hold in a publicly

quoted company, depending on the sector.

The bank said a foreign investor could hold a maximum of 49 per cent in a publicly quoted company compared to the 25 per cent ceiling which existed up until now.

It also scrapped all restrictions to local investments of Cypriots living overseas, which previously stood at 40 per cent.

It relaxed, but did not abolish, restrictions on foreign holdings in the banking sector.

The central bank said the stake held by overseas Cypriot foreigners in the banking sector could be as high as 15 per cent of capi-

tal compared to the eight per cent limit which was in force previously.

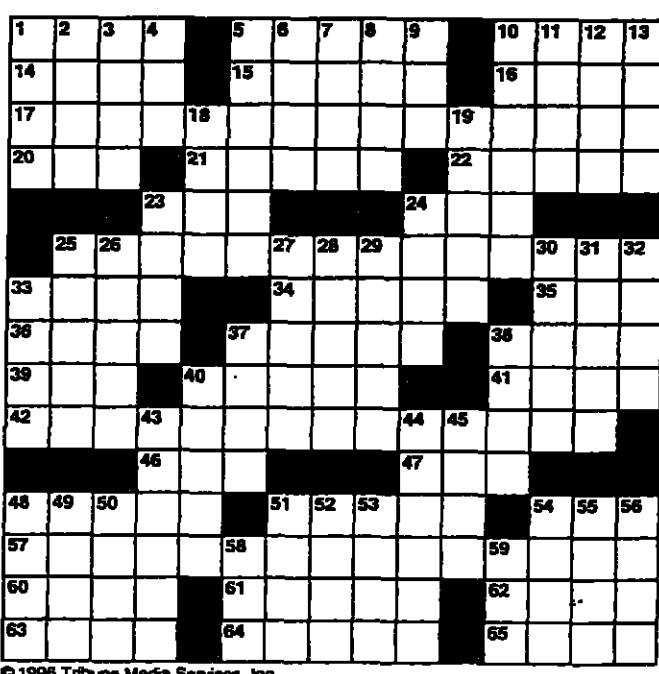
Foreign participation in companies belonging to the banking sector can now reach six per cent from three per cent previously, the central bank said.

"This will help the CSE tremendously," CSE Director Nondas Metaxas told Reuters. "Now no central bank approval will be required for every transaction... there will be no bureaucracy," he said.

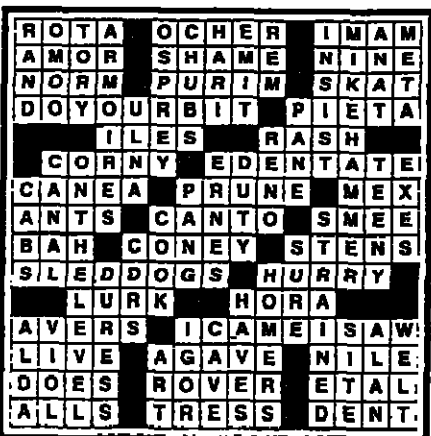
The central bank described the move as being "within the framework of its policy of gradual deregulation of transactions on the Cyprus stock exchange."

THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

- ACROSS
- Weep strongly
 - Crinkled fabric
 - Complain
 - Matty or Felix
 - Bunker and Porkchop
 - Singer/actress Adams
 - Place for "lower" prices
 - Sportscaster, Jim
 - Gives for a while
 - Sideline cheer
 - Fasten
 - Hellman play
 - fide
 - Basins' mates
 - Yoko —
 - Moran or Gray
 - Ocean predator
 - AD word
 - USAF org.
 - Volcanic valley
 - Hwys.
 - Something to get in on
 - Guido's note
 - Depressed
 - Slacken
 - Famed fur merchant
 - Le Gallienne
 - Cat burglar in Liverpool?
 - Incan land
 - Higg or Ross
 - Surrounded by
 - Let stand
 - Lauder of cosmetics
 - Lots



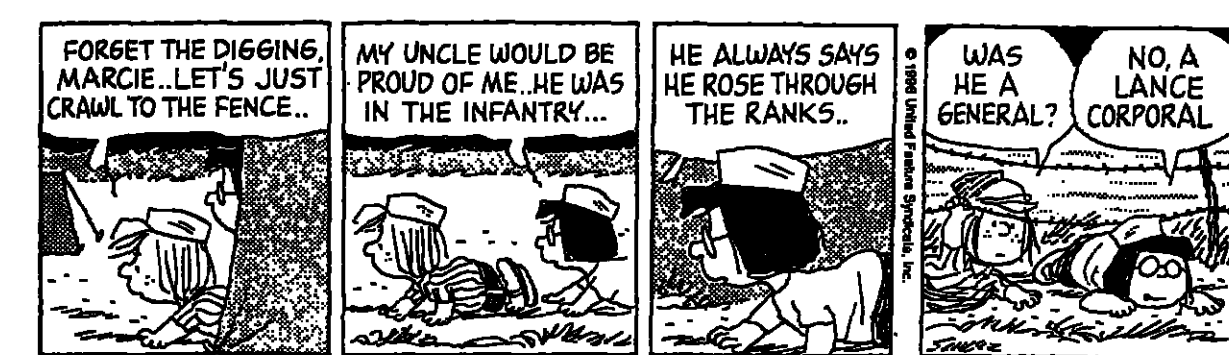
- DOWN
- Ali —
 - Woeful word
 - It's measured in ergs
 - Wrench type
 - Showy
 - Skating place
 - "...are I saw —"
 - Frolic
 - Curve
 - Join together
 - Arabian gulf
 - Outer coating
 - Cats and dogs
 - Latin I word
 - Inventor Howe
 - Irene or Meg
 - up (enliven)
 - Body of Jewish law
 - In abeyance
 - Jack type
 - Sawyer's creator
 - King of Judea
 - Scout's rider
 - Tube or circle
 - Dovish sounds
 - Defeat
 - Greek portico
 - "...pretty maids all in —"
 - Composer Harold
 - Beat it!
 - Plants of various regions
 - Traditional knowledge
 - Vipers
 - Borscht base
 - Israeli seaport
 - Sale condition
 - RBI or ERA
 - Sound quality
 - Jane Austen heroine
 - Conceited
 - Ovine or Griffiths
 - Victor over A.E.S.
 - Sweet potato



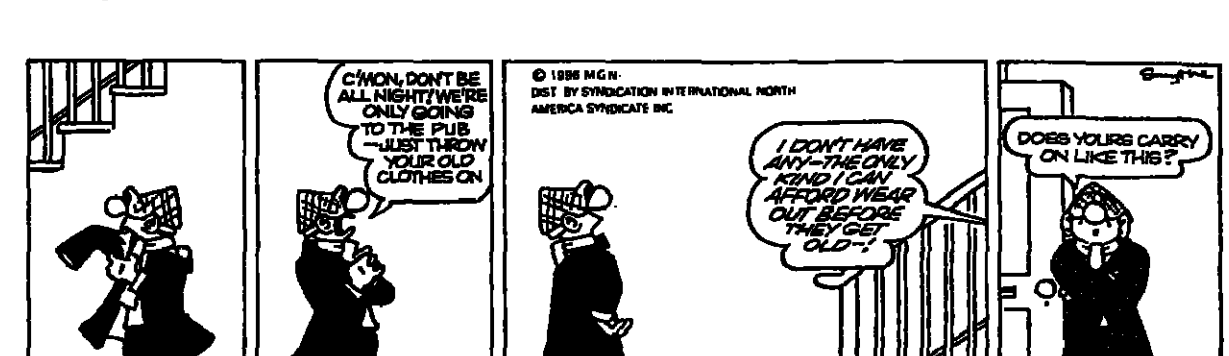
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



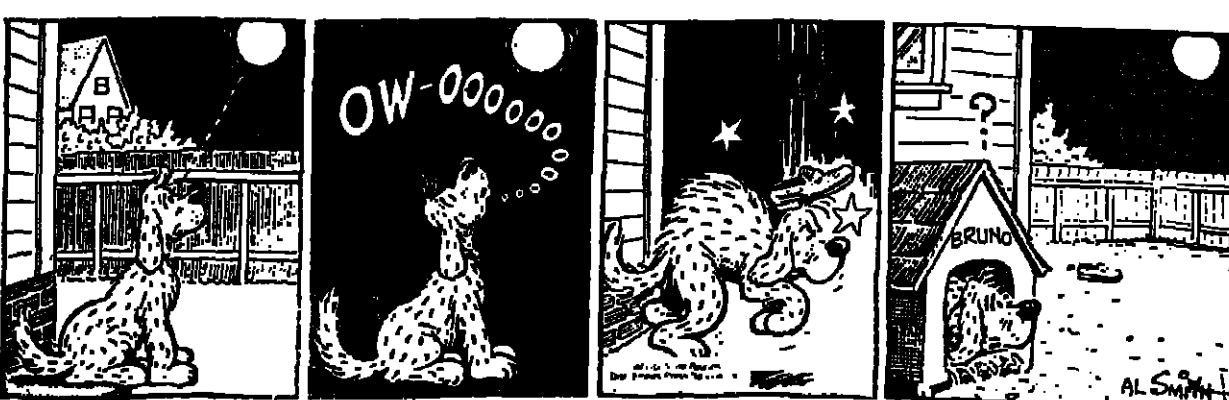
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'nJeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 22, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into association matters today and state your aims, then be very cooperative. You feel satisfied and happy this evening in the company of your loved ones so keep that feeling and there will be harmony in your residence.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) By improving your surroundings today, you can then gain your aims for success more easily. Try to cooperate more with fellow associates and you will be able to maintain much harmony in your career activities which are important.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day today to make arrangements for amusements ahead, however, don't be extravagant. Be more thoughtful with your mate and you discover the harmony which could exist by showing him or her some respect.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Show your loved ones that you are truly devoted to them today, however, don't be glibly about it. Avoid critical friends later this evening as they could cause difficulty, which is not helpful for your success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try to find out what usual fellow associates expect of you today and please them, and forget that secret concern later this evening. Don't disagree with your mate or there could be disruptive words exchanged which are not beneficial.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get your property glistening and glowing today, as is your custom, however, be soothing with a close friend who is upset and try to give advice which will be very beneficial to him or her for the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are especially charming today and you can easily put your ideas across to others. Be happy in the company of good friends this evening and show that you do appreciate them being in your life and you will back them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do whatever will bring you closer to the one you love during the daytime today, however, later tonight, avoid one who is insistent and who is always wanting to speak his or her mind and always wants to get in the last word.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure to go along with the ideas of a good friend today who wants to see you get ahead. Don't disagree with your mate this evening or you will find yourself in a heavy altercation with him or her which won't be beneficial.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Show more appreciation to those in the outside world today who are helpful to you. Avoid an emotional scene later this evening with a fellow associate or you could be in a difficulty with him or her when you are needed.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look into new projects today and meet newcomers who can be of assistance to you on some special project, accept the help of such and you will be quite successful. Later this evening meet with some close friends and have fun.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Show your mate that you will cooperate more today in some mutual plans and make big headway towards receiving much affection from his or her in the days ahead. This evening will be good for concluding some important project.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye.

Nestle buys controlling stake in Israel's Osem

Swiss Nestle O.S.A. has bought a 49 per cent stake in Osem, a controlling stake in Israel's second-largest food producer. The two companies announced Sunday that Nestle purchased a 49 per cent stake in Osem for \$140 million.

Nestle's takeover of Osem is a significant move in the Israeli food market. Osem is a major food producer in Israel, with a turnover of about \$1 billion last year.

Nestle's entry into the Israeli market is part of its global expansion strategy. The company has been active in acquiring stakes in food companies worldwide.

Osem's products include a wide range of food items, including dairy products, cereals, and frozen foods. The company has a long history in the Israeli food industry.

The acquisition of Osem by Nestle is expected to strengthen Nestle's position in the Middle East market. It will also provide Nestle with access to Osem's extensive distribution network.

Osem's management team will continue to run the company, but Nestle will have a significant influence on the company's strategic decisions.

The deal is expected to close in the near future. Osem's shareholders will receive cash for their shares.

Nestle's move into the Israeli market is a testament to its commitment to global growth. The company has a strong track record of successful acquisitions.

Osem's products are popular in Israel and are exported to other countries. The company has a strong brand identity.

The acquisition of Osem by Nestle is a significant event in the Israeli food industry. It marks a new chapter in the company's history.

Nestle's entry into the Israeli market is a significant move. It will provide Nestle with access to a new market and a large customer base.

Osem's management team will continue to run the company, but Nestle will have a significant influence on the company's strategic decisions.

Nestle buys controlling stake in Israel's Osem

TEL AVIV (R) — Swiss food giant Nestle S.A. raised its holding in Osem Investments Ltd. to 40 per cent, giving it a controlling stake in Israel's second-largest publicly traded food manufacturer. The two companies announced Sunday that Nestle purchased an additional 20.04 million shares in Osem for \$140.31 million.

Last week Nestle exercised a \$40 million option to purchase 10 per cent of Osem shares, of which it already owned 4.5 per cent. Osem shares Sunday were trading down 0.25 per cent at 18.18 shekels (\$5.72), about 22 per cent below the \$7 per share Nestle paid.

"The fact that Nestle paid a premium price for the shares shows commitment to the company," said Eran Goren, managing director of Zannex Securities.

"It is also very good news for the market. When someone pays above the market price it means he believes the market will pick up," Mr. Goren said.

The Tel Aviv market has fallen 16.5 per cent since the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won the May 29 election for prime minister. The market was down over two per cent Sunday.

Yoram Ben Yehuda of Bank Hapoalim's securities department said the deal shows foreign investors have not abandoned Israel.

"It is a message that foreign investors have not left Israel, that they are not running away following the elections and that they have faith in the economy of Israel," he said.

Comprising 12 production plants and five distribution centres, Osem produces over 1,000 items and in some of these categories has a market share of over 50 per cent.

Nestle's involvement in Israel began last year when it gave Osem exclusive rights to produce and market its products in Israel.

"Osem has in effect become part of the Nestle family," Osem managing director Dan Propper told Reuters.

"We are already cooperating in the field of coffee, breakfast cereals and soups and will be entering the ice cream field in Israel with Nestle. It will strengthen our local position."

Saudi oil power seen growing in Europe

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, already the world's most important oil supplier, may soon become a discreet but growing presence in Europe's fuel markets, analysts and Gulf oil industry sources have said.

Fresh from taking a half share in the Greek Vardian oil group, state oil giant Saudi Aramco is reported to be eyeing stakes in Italian and Portuguese refineries that would push it deeper into the world's third-biggest oil consuming market.

The London-based Arabic-language newspaper Asharq Al Awsat said in a report from Genoa that Aramco would finalise a deal in a few months to purchase a "strategic share" in the Garone-owned ERG SPA group which has interests in three refineries and over 2,200 fuel stations in Italy.

Portugal's state-controlled oil firm Petrolgal, after a three-day site visit by Aramco officials last month, has confirmed that it is seeking a strategic partner and that Aramco could fit the bill.

According to Asharq Al Awsat Aramco would take "a minority share" of less than 50 per cent of the equity in ERG after the Italian firm was publicly listed on the local stock market.

Aramco's stake in Petrolgal would be on the lines of a "strategic partner" though Aramco's exact holding or oil supply relationship with the Portuguese entity has not been finalised, Portuguese officials said.

There has been no official comment from Riyadh, but stakes in the two countries would mean that the world's largest oil exporter would put more of its crude into secure downstream outlets in Europe, second only to the U.S. and Asia in market size.

Saudi officials have in the past stressed that negotiations on refinery deals can often be lengthy and stress that only projects which are commercially sound will be pursued.

New European acquisitions dovetail into Riyadh's strategy to find foreign refineries and guaranteed retail outlets that can absorb some of the eight million barrels that the conservative kingdom pumps each day.

By taking tankers full of crude from Saudi Arabia to overseas refineries, Aramco can earn extra revenue from higher-priced refined petroleum products such as petrol and diesel as well as reducing its reliance on international companies coming to Saudi to buy crude.

Aramco has already built up refining assets in the U.S., South Korea and the Philippines which take some 1.5 million bpd of Saudi oil and it is now in negotiations with Chinese and Indian officials to enter joint-venture refinery deals.

A stake in Italy's ERG would open a way into a 422,000 bpd petrol market while Petrolgal is the only oil firm with refineries in Portugal.

Private Saudi businessmen have staged a march on Aramco and already have downstream European interests, including Jeddah's Corral Petroleum Holdings which in 1994 bought O.K. Petroleum A.B., Sweden's largest integrated oil firm.

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DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Drop in prices of shares, securities lower net profit of Union Bank

** DUE TO THE allocation of JD 1.4 million as an allowance for decline in prices of shares and securities and JD 906,000 as an allowance for bad debts/credit facilities, the Union Bank for Saving and Investment saw its net profit decline from JD 964,700 posted in 1994 to JD 390,000 at the end of 1995. Before the allowances, the bank was able to increase total earnings by 31 per cent from JD 12.9 million in 1994 to JD 16.9 million in 1995. Gross profit was slightly lower last year as it amounted to JD 2.5 million (JD 2.6 million in 1994).

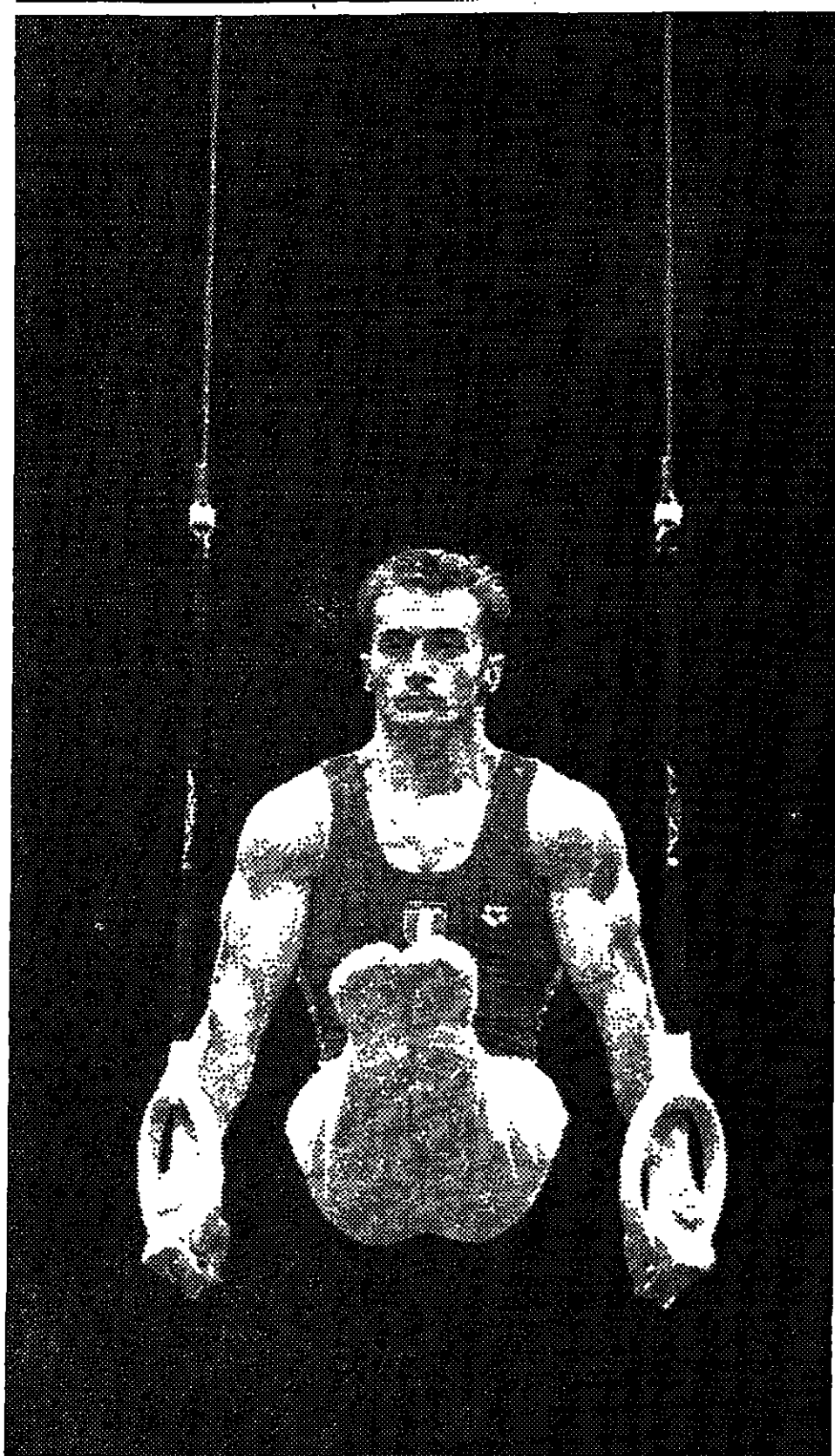
According to the annual report, net earnings from interests and commissions increased from JD 1.2 million in 1994 to JD 1.7 million and earnings from foreign currency dealings rose from JD 1.05 million to JD 1.2 million in 1995. Total assets stood at JD 190.5 million at the end of last year (JD 159.9 million in 1994) while liabilities totalled JD 179.6 million (JD 148.1 million in 1994). Deposits also grew by 21 per cent to reach JD 162.9 million at the end of last year, the report showed.

Credit facilities extended by the bank declined to JD 57.5 million and accounted for about 30 per cent of the total balance sheet compared to 37 per cent of the 1994 total assets. Investments in shares and securities totalled JD 24.2 million, or about 12.8 per cent of the total assets, as it grew by 27 per cent last year.

Fixed and other assets were 52 per cent higher in 1995 as the bank took possession of hypothecated real estate, valued at about JD 1 million, when debtors failed to repay their obligations. The increase was also due to the new bank premises which are near completion and expected to be formally opened before the end of 1996.

The bank has raised its capital to JD 11 million by the end of April 1996 and is expected to begin the third stage of raising it to JD 20 million in the near future (Al Dustour + Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT									
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 21/07/1996									
PAGE 12	MONTHLY	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.0	1.59	7	340	74780	221.00	220.00
2.700	2.120	MID. EAST INV. BK.	65.0	0.00	15	10742	19964	1.97	99.02
5.100	4.250	INDUSTRIAL INV. BK.	5.1	6.37	1	1000	2220	2.22	2.22
3.040	2.800	THE HOUSING BK.	13.0	2.84	10	6040	39156	4.97	4.86
1.240	1.900	JOR. KUPAT BANK	19.0	0.00	2	80	216	2.72	2.71
4.480	3.300	JOR. GULF BANK	15.7	7.29	15	3450	33269	1.97	96.01
4.350	1.700	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.0	0.00	3	500	1285	2.08	2.05
1.120	1.300	UNION OF SAV. INV.	F	0.00	1	450	728	1.75	1.75
1.120	1.300	AMMAN BANK INV.	G	0.00	43	42200	14010	1.33	1.34
1.710	1.000	PELADIA INV. BK.	G	0.00	5	2300	2882	1.15	1.17
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 174.53	7CHG: -0.54	103	109376	379118		
1.850	1.600	ARABIAN SEAS INSUR.	11.2	4.92	1	190	228	1.60	1.52
4.410	4.000	JERUSALEM INSUR.	11.5	4.71	1	700	2978	4.25	4.25
2.910	2.150	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.3	8.92	6	1840	4276	2.31	2.24
2.990	1.900	SEEL LARD INSUR.	6.5	0.00	2	1100	259	2.32	2.20
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 123.31	2CHG: -0.88	11	3924	10195		
1.000	1.430	JOR. ELECTRICITY COR.	10.6	7.84	20	7600	11631	1.56	1.53
1.680	1.140	INERD ALUMINUM COR.	9.0	7.25	7	950	280	2.89	2.89
3.300	4.650	SPAM INTL. HOTELS	17.0	3.00	7	3800	18993	4.83	5.00
2.890	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	4.2	9.22	1	900	1253	2.28	2.17
2.300	1.080	MAEL. PORTFOLIO	9.4	0.00	13	6180	8000	1.30	1.25
1.160	1.900	REAL ESTATE INV.	22.2	3.16	1000	1000	1000	1.00	1.00
1.430	1.060	LAND. EDUCATION	9	0.00	3	3400	1658	1.03	1.02
2.430	1.700	UNITED CO.	9.9	5.32	3	550	1042	1.95	1.88
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 113.96	1CHG: -0.41	51	24850	47587		
3.810	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	17.8	3.22	4	437	1370	3.23	3.11
2.150	2.750	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	31.7	0.00	2	1003	2604	2.89	2.89
4.980	4.750	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.3	3.96	10	3750	18938	5.10	5.05
10.560	8.720	JOR. PETRO. REFINERY	9.2	8.79	9	561	5084	9.19	9.10
8.180	5.420	JOR. MINERAL WATERS	18.4	3.82	7	760	4560	6.85	6.55
5.300	3.100	ARAB PHARM. IND.	19.1	6.75	23	4585	16039	3.54	3.40
6.490	5.650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.3	4.27	1	200	1170	5.70	5.65
2.630	1.710	JUM. PIPES IND.	10.0	6.67	7	3960	5290	1.81	1.60
3.310	2.500	GENERAL MINTING	7.1	10.92	7	1000	1000	1.00	1.00
2.000	4.250	JOR. ALUMINA IND.	17.5	4.35	75	6600	30177	4.62	4.50
5.800	3.140	ARAB ALUM. IND.	11.87	0.00	5	1200	3707	3.40	3.37
1.400	1.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	6	0.00	118	227650	129936	0.53	0.51
1.500	1.060	JOR. PAPER CORP.	12.5	8.12	58	37950	47344	1.25	1.26
2.720	1.210	NATIONAL PETRO. IND.	10.4	0.00	33	24500	17090	1.70	1.70
2.310	1.060	INTERMED. PETRO. CORP.	6	0.00	14	5180	6695	1.30	1.27
4.980	2.650	MAEL. CARBON WIRE CORP.	18.6	0.00	3	280	75	1.35	1.35
1.650	830	JOR. SULFUR CORP.	9	0.00	4	850	711	0.95	0.95
2.240	1.080	ASAM PHARM. CORP.	27.5	0.00	38	18150	20928	1.54	1.47
1.020	1.200	KAMPHAR INVEST.	42.3	0.13	3	400	470	1.20	1.17
2.450	1.740	UNIV. MED. IND.	5.8	10.32	1	23450	44262	1.94	1.90
1.770	1.140	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	18.3	0.00	75	27400	40720	1.52	1.46
1.850	1.950	JOR. NEW CARBON CO.	28.8	0.00	38	12350	13029	1.07	1.06
2.440	1.750	EL - ZAY READY MIXER	28.2	0.00	6	1315	9368	1.81	1.80
1.440	1.050	TRIT. TOWERS	28.2	0.00	15	6750	8070	1.22	1.20
2.230	1.130	UNION CH. & WAG.	28.8	0.00	5	1600	1873	1.20	1.17
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 105.18	1CHG: -1.56	560	424187	454909		
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 139.30	4CHG: -0.98	725	562131	701808		
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 21/07/1996									
0.840	0.910	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.9	0.00	11	13500	7691	0.54	0.57
0.810	0.610	JOR. TRADE FRC.	17.1	0.00	17	17000	11180	0.65	0.65
0.980	0.540	MAEL. COMMER. CENTERS	4	0.00	14	3363	1933	0.56	0.58
1.000	0.700	UNION INV. 50%	69.8	0.00	18	23550	6550	0.73	0.73
1.200	0.930	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	29	42250	2727	0.73	0.64
1.100	0.620	JOR. INDUS. INVEST-JEMCO	54	0.00	7	750	66	0.64	0.64
1.360	1.000	UNIV. METALS	8	0.00	1	2000	1900	1.00	0.95
1.000	0.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	8	0.00	19	13450	8544	0.63	0.62
1.950	1.370	MAEL. CHLORINE	8	0.00	21	12000	17228	1.47	1.47
1.100	0.620	MAEL. INT. ENG. HAMMO	8	0.00	29	23500	1636	0.69	0.69
1.000	0.430	MAEL. DIES & MOULDS	8	0.00	5	3050	1446	0.47	0.49
1.080	0.770	JORDAN STEEL	8	0.00	26	24000	20230	0.84	0.84
1.080	0.490	ARAB ELECT. IND.	9	0.00	6	8500	2605	0.65	



Yuri Chechi of Italy, defending world champion is shown on the ring apparatus during gymnastics competition at the summer Olympic Games (Reuters photo)

Scherbo leads Belarus

ATLANTA (AP) — Vitaly Scherbo, who won a record six gold medals in 1992 in Barcelona, was on pace to do it again Saturday after leading Belarus to first place in the second round of Olympic men's gymnastics preliminaries.

The United States men finished a strong second in competition in the Georgia Dome.

"You saw an almost perfect meet," coach Peter Kormann said. "You can watch gymnastics for 10 years and not see a perfect one."

Scherbo, the 1992 all-around winner, scored a two-round high of 57.823 to

lead Belarus to 285.222 points. The United States earned 284.634.

Korea finished third with 283.384 points and Japan finished fourth with 282.823. Germany, which won the first round with 282.147 points, was dropped to fifth and in danger of elimination.

Gold-medal favorites China and Russia were competing in the third round later Saturday. The top six teams go to Monday's finals.

Four-time U.S. national champion John Roethlisberger, who led the Americans with 57.524 points, finished second to

Scherbo in the individual standings.

Scherbo started with a 6.687 on the floor exercise, his best event, and matched it on both the parallel bars and the high bar, his final event.

He earned his highest score of the day, a 9.725, after a vault that was so flawless he didn't move at all on his landing. As the crowd cheered, Scherbo smiled and waved his index finger in the air.

Compulsories comprise 60 per cent of the team score, and Monday's optionals make up the remaining 40 per cent. This is the last time compulsories will be used in international competition.

What they're saying at the Olympics

ATLANTA (AFP) — What people are saying at the Atlanta Olympics:

* "Because I'm good at it. If I could swim 100m faster than anybody else in the world, believe me, I would" — Kieren Perkins, Australia's 1500m freestyle, on why he swims the arduous event.

* "I do her laundry. I don't do her advice" — Janet Evans, winner of four individual swimming gold medals in two Olympics, on how she has been helping 14-year-old teammate Amanda Beard cope with Olympic life.

* "We're here to mine gold, not pick coconuts" — Herb Elliott, Jamaican team doctor, on the Caribbean nation's intentions at the Olympics.

* "It doesn't matter where they come from, they're just another opponent, two arms, two legs, you get more blows on them and less on you and you've won the fight... it's a pretty basic sport, really" — Australian boxer Rick Timperi on his team's chances.

* "None of us were born with gold spoons in our mouths, we've always had to work hard against all odds, so to speak, and if you look at all the individual stories, how we came up and what it took to get to this point, hey, we did, and we beat all the odds" — American light-heavyweight boxing gold medal contender Antonio Tarver.

* "He wanted to break the world record in the morning, just to say, 'hey, I'm here'" — Belgian Fred Deburghraeve's coach Ronald Gaesten after the swimmer had sliced 35 hundredths of a second off the 100m breaststroke world record.

* "We are trying to be subtle, subtle, subtle — how to win friends and influence people without trying" — Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Cape Town's attempts to win the 2004 Olympic Games.

* "It's so nice to be here as an athlete rather than a political player. In that sense, these Olympic Games are very special. We didn't have a flag or an anthem in Barcelona. Now we do — and it's great" — South African marathon runner Elana Meyer.

* "I feel cheated" — Peter Ribe after being thrown off Norway's Olympic canoe team for failing a drug test.

* "I was not very happy with beach volleyball being introduced into the Olympics. In Russia we don't have beaches like Brazil" — Vitaly Smirnov, president of Russian National Olympic Committee.

* "They bring in softball. I can tell you hardly one person in 1,000 can tell you what it is" — Vitaly Smirnov, president of the Russian National Olympic Committee on softball in the Games.

* "The traffic is terrible, the system is terrible, the pay is terrible and the hotel is terrible. If it does not improve I'm out of here" — Denver bus driver shipped in to help organizers.

* "It is very difficult to win two gold medals. To win three in a row is even tougher" — Russian wrestler Alexander Karelin on his chances of making it three golds in a row.

Yugoslavia avoids upset against Greece; Lithuania overcome Croatia in double OT as China beat Angola

ATLANTA (AP) — Yugoslavia closed with a 15-5 run to beat Greece 71-63 Saturday and avoid the first upset of the men's Olympic basketball tournament.

Considered one of the medal favorites, Yugoslavia looked to be in serious trouble in the opener for both teams when Vlade Divac, the 2.16-metre (7-foot-1) center who plays for the American NBA's Charlotte Hornets, picked up his fourth foul with 11:09 to play.

Greece, making its first appearance in men's Olympic basketball, went on a 10-2 run to take a 46-46 lead with 8:46 to play.

Although Divac never returned to the game, Yugoslavia turned to its bench and other NBA players. Predrag Danilovic of the Miami Heat, Zeljko Rebraca, who replaced Divac, scored consecutive baskets to give Yugoslavia

the lead for good at 60-58 with 2:05 to play. Danilovic then nailed a 3-pointer and Yugoslavia closed it out by making six of eight free throws and converting one of the misses into a basket.

"It's always slow," Divac said. "The first game is always like that."

Savic led Yugoslavia, which did not participate in the Barcelona Games because of United Nations sanctions, with 21 points, while Danilovic had 16. Divac finished with six points and eight rebounds in 22 minutes.

"It was a hard game, and we were nervous," Danilovic said. "It was what we expected because we have not played a game for a while." Panayotis Fassoulas led Greece with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Greece couldn't make a field goal after Giorgis Sigalas' 3-pointer gave it a 58-56 lead with 3:37 left

until two dunks by Passoulas in the final 30 seconds.

Lithuania 83, Croatia 81, 2 OT

Rimas Kurtinaitis scored nine of his 12 points in the second overtime Saturday and Lithuania prevailed 83-81 over Croatia in a battle of attrition.

The game was the opener for both teams in the men's Olympic tournament and was also a meeting of the two best teams after the United States in Pool A. It lived up to its billing.

Kurtinaitis, one of the heroes of the Soviet Union's gold medal victory in 1988 and a member of Lithuania's bronze medal winners at Barcelona four years ago, had a four-point play with 2:57 left to give Lithuania a 78-77 lead. He hit a 3-pointer with 1:09 left that gave his team an 81-80 lead.

Dino Radja made one of two free throws with 31 seconds left to give Croatia its

last tie and the 36-year-old Kurtinaitis ended the scoring by twice making one of two free throws in the final 30 seconds.

The loss offset a brilliant 33-point performance by Croatia's Toni Kukoc, who played with some white tape on his broken left thumb, his shooting hand.

A member of the NBA champion Chicago Bulls, Kukoc singlehandedly kept Croatia in the game in the second half, scoring 19 of its 35 points in the second 20-minute period. He handled the ball, grabbed a number of key rebounds and was the presence he has been in recent international competitions.

Lithuania had four players foul out and starting forward Arturas Karnishovas was forced to the bench in the first overtime when he turned his right ankle grabbing a rebound. Croatia had five players foul out.

Croatia had the last shot of both regulation and the first overtime.

Kukoc had tied the game

66-66 with two free throws with 26 seconds left in regulation. Lithuania turned the ball over on the inbound play and Croatia worked the clock down and Kukoc missed a 3 from the left side with two seconds left.

In the first overtime, Saulius Stombergas of Lithuania tied the game at 72-72 on a side jumper with 1:12 left. Croatia turned the ball over, but Arvydas Sabonis missed a hook shot with 27 seconds left. Again, Croatia worked the clock down and Davor Marcelic missed a 3 from the right corner at the buzzer.

Sabonis, who plays for the Portland Trail Blazers, led Lithuania with 20 points. Sarunas Marciulionis of the Denver Nuggets had 14.

China downs Angola

Wang Zhizhi had 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead China to a 70-67 victory over Angola on Saturday in the Olympic men's basketball opener for both teams.

Angola's narrow loss was a marked contrast to the 116-48 drubbing it suffered in its Olympic opener four years ago, against the U.S. "Dream Team," however, the current edition of the Dream Team is Angola's next opponent on Monday.

China trailed 62-55 with eight minutes to play. It took advantage of a horrendous shooting slump by Angola to tie it at 62 with 4:39 left.

Angola took its final lead at 64-62 on a tip-in by Justino Victoriano with 3:45 to play. China took a 68-64 lead on a 3-pointer by Zheng Wu with 37 seconds left. Antonio Carvalho's 3-pointer after rebounding a teammate's missed 3-point attempt tied it at 68-68, but Hu Weidong made two free throws with nine seconds to play.

Angola's final chance ended when Carvalho was fouled with 4.5 seconds left on what he thought was a 3-pointer. The officials called it a 2-point attempt and he missed both free shots anyway.

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- Ability to design and execute research methodologies, programmes and studies.
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- Creativity, independence of thought and originality.
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- Ability to create and follow a plan to achieve a series of research related objectives and goals.

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Atlanta 1996

Olympics schedule
for Monday, July 22

BASEBALL
Australia vs Netherlands

NETBALL
Australia vs South Korea

SOFTBALL
USA vs Puerto Rico

WRESTLING
Greece vs China

WRESTLING
South Korea vs Puerto Rico

WRESTLING
Australia vs Lithuania

WRESTLING
Angola vs U.S.

WRESTLING
USA vs Lithuania

WRESTLING
Angola vs U.S.

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USA vs Lithuania

WRESTLING
Angola vs U.S.

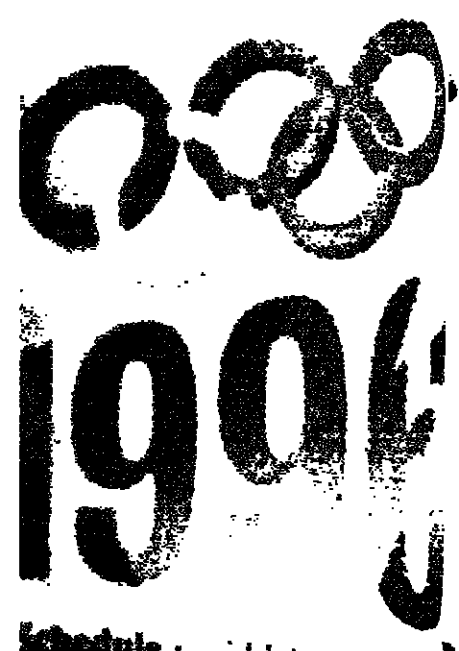
WRESTLING
USA vs Lithuania

WRESTLING
Angola vs U.S.

WRESTLING
USA vs Lithuania

WRESTLING
Angola vs U.S.

WRESTLING
USA vs Lithuania



Atlanta 1996

Olympics schedule for Monday, July 22

BASEBALL

Australia vs. Netherlands
Nicaragua vs. Italy

BASKETBALL (Men)

Brazil vs. Greece
Croatia vs. China

South Korea vs. Puerto Rico

Vigostavia vs. Australia

Argentina vs. Lithuania

Angola vs. U.S.

BOXING

1st round

EQUESTRIAN

Open three-day team dressage, 2nd round

FENCING

Men's and women's individual foil, 1st round to medal matches

GYMNASTICS

Men's team 1st and 2nd optional to finals

JUDO

Men's and women's middleweight prelims, repechage and finals

SHOOTING

Men's 10-metre air rifle prelims to finals

SOCCER (Men)

Spain vs. France

Saudi Arabia vs. Australia

Tunisia vs. U.S.

Argentina vs. Portugal

SWIMMING

Women's 400 freestyle prelims to finals

Men's 400 freestyle prelims to finals

Women's 100 backstroke prelims to finals

Men's 200 butterfly prelims to finals

Women's 400 freestyle relay prelims to finals

VOLLEYBALL (Women)

China vs. South Korea

Ukraine vs. Japan

Russia vs. Canada

Germany vs. Peru

Netherlands vs. U.S.

Cuba vs. Brazil

Hungary has bad opening day in wrestling

ATLANTA (AP) — It was a bad day for wrestling powerhouse Hungary as two defending Olympic Greco-Roman champions lost their opening matches Saturday and fell out of gold medal contention.

Also losing any chance for a gold or silver was reigning world champion Rustam Adzhy of Ukraine, who was upset by Marko Yli-Hannuksela of Finland 6-2 in the 68-kilo (149.5-pound) lightweight division.

Throwing that division wide open was Poland's Ryszard Wójcik. Backed by a vocal contingent of fans, he defeated Hungary's Attila Repka 4-3.

Sergei Tsvir of Russia was a 3-1 overtime winner over Hungarian Peter Farkas, the defending 82-kilo (180.5-pound) middleweight champion.

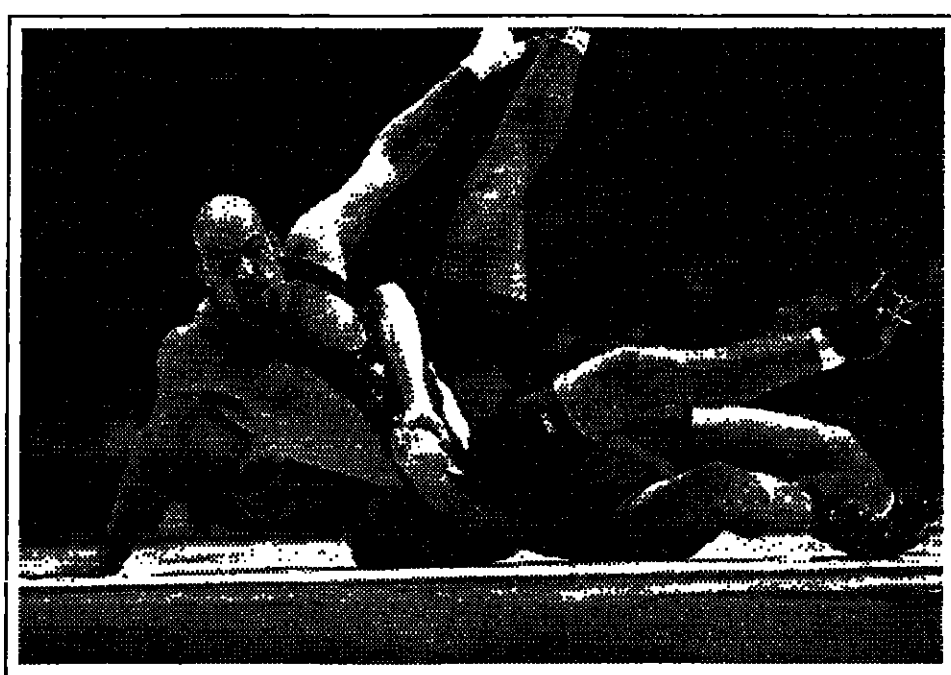
A wrestler cannot win more than a bronze medal after dropping into the losers' bracket after the first round.

The United States, led by world champion Dennis Hall, turned the home mat advantage into a 4-1 record Saturday.

Hall, the first American to win a world championship in Greco-Roman, survived a 3-0 overtime decision over Seref Eroglu of Turkey in the 57-kilo (125.5-pound).

A match cannot be stopped until one wrestler has scored at least three points, unless the overtime period has ended. Unlike most international tournaments, in which the Olympic pairings are determined by a blind draw.

There are 10 weight classes in Greco-Roman, the oldest form of wrestling. Freestyle wrestling differs in that holds cannot be executed below the waist in Greco.



Jason Gleasman of the United States (top) is flipped by Belarus' Sergey Lishtvan during their 100 kg class Greco-Roman wrestling match at the Atlanta Olympics July 20. Lishtvan won 3-0 and Gleasman was later eliminated from competition (Reuters photo)



Russian fencer Aleksandr Beketov (left) lunges for his opponent, Cuban Ivan Trevejo Perez, July 20 in the gold medal match in the men's individual epee competition. Beketov won the match, receiving the first medal for his country in the 1996 Olympic Games (Reuters photo)

Riis wins Tour de France

PARIS (AFP) — Bjarne Riis of Denmark won the Tour de France here Sunday — becoming the first Dane to achieve the feat.

Fabio Baldato of Italy won the 147.5km 21st and final stage from Palaiseau to Paris, beating Frenchman Frederic Moncassin in a sprint finish up the Champs Elysees.

Jeroen Blijlevens of the Netherlands, winner of the fifth stage into Besancon, was third.

Baldato, who won the stage to Lannion last year, seized the initiative after the Peloton had engulfed a group of four escapees.

Moncassin, winner of two stages in the Tour, locked onto his wheel but was unable to overpower him in front of a seething crowd of over 60,000 people — an estimated 20,000 of whom had travelled from Denmark to cheer Riis' victory.

Riis, 32, ended Miguel Indurain's five-year reign as champion, finishing almost two minutes clear of teammate Jan Ullrich of Germany, while Richard Virenque of France finished third overall — the first Frenchman on the podium since 1989.

Moncassin, a member of the French Olympic team, sportingly slapped Baldato on the back in congratulation after they crossed the line.

Earlier, three Italians, Andrea Tafi, winner of this year's Paris-Roubaix classic, Flavio Vanzella, who wore the yellow jersey for four days in 1994, Massimo Podenzana, winner of the stage to Villeneuve-Sur-Lot, and Russian Andre Tchmil built up a lead of 48 seconds after the fourth of the eight circuits round Paris.

The four, though, were never going to be able to let the sprinters miss their last day of glory and their brave, but foolhardy, escape ended as they swept up the Champs Elysees for the final time.

The Peloton had been in a very merry mood prior to their arrival in Paris with France's Pascal Hervé, who won 10,000 francs (\$3,000) for being second over the aubisque climb on Wednesday, drinking a glass of champagne while riding and Chris Boardman, finishing his first tour in three attempts, dancing with Australian Neil Stephens side by side on their bikes.

The joy at surviving was a natural reaction by the 129 survivors out of the original 198 starters — who endured one of the hardest tours in recent memory.

Tour de France stage by stage winners

- Prologue (Den Bosch, time-trial): Alex Zülle (Swi) Once
- 1st stage (Den Bosch): Frederic Moncassin (Fra) Gan
- 2nd stage (Wassenaar): Mario Cipollini (Ita) Saeco
- 3rd stage (Nogent-sur-Oise): Erik Zabel (Ger) Telekom
- 4th stage (Lac de Madine): Cyril Saugrain (Fra) Aubervilliers-93
- 5th stage (Besancon): Jeroen Blijlevens (Ned) Tvm
- 6th stage (Aix-les-Bains): Michael Boogerd (Ned) Rabobank
- 7th stage (Aix-les-Bains): Luc Leblanc (Fra) Polaris
- 8th stage (Val d'Aoste, time-trial): Yevgeny Berni
- 9th stage (Aix-les-Bains): Bjarne Riis (Den) Telekom
- 10th stage (Gap): Erik Zabel (Ger) Telekom
- 11th stage (Gap): Bjarne Riis (Den) Telekom
- 12th stage (Le Puy-en-Velay): Pascal Richard (Swi) MG Technogym
- 13th stage (Superbe-Sancy): Rolf Sørensen (Den) Rabobank
- 14th stage (Tulle): Dmitriy Abduzhaparov (Uzb) Reims
- 15th stage (Villeneuve-Sur-Lot): Massimo Podenzana (Ita) Cofidis
- 16th stage (Lourdes-Hautacam): Bjarne Riis (Den) Telekom
- 17th stage (Lyon): Laurent Fignon (Swi) Festina
- 18th stage (Gien): Bart Voskamp (Ned) Tvm
- 19th stage (Bordeaux): Frederic Moncassin (Fra) Gan
- 20th stage (Saint-Etienne, time-trial): Jan Ullrich (Ger) Telekom
- 21st stage (Paris): Fabio Baldato (Ita) MG Technogym

Bus chaos leaves athletes stranded

ATLANTA (AFP) — Sleepy Sunday brought more transportation chaos for athletes and media at the Centennial Olympics.

The Australian camp set about looking for more mini-buses to hire for use in the numerous situations when sportsmen have been left stranded.

The world's media are fast losing patience with the transport set-up. An early morning trip to the rowing venue turned nasty when the driver decided to go back to base as the bus was not safe.

"Transport is still a major problem," said Keith Merton, Australia's assistant chef de mission. "It is being raised constantly at the chefs' meeting and we are assuming they are working on it."

"The problem is that they are using a lot of drivers and buses from outside Atlanta."

Australia foresaw difficulties and hired mini-buses to use in emergency circumstances but even their officials did not expect to have athletes waiting hours for buses.

The media bus travelling to the rowing venue was travelling down the freeway before 6 a.m. when the driver informed the passengers that she was turning back because she felt the bus was unsafe.

Fariman opens fire for Iranian women

ATLANTA (R) — Lida Fariman became the first woman to represent Iran at the Olympics since the 1979 Islamic revolution when she opened fire in the air rifle event on Saturday.

Iran has said its women may compete abroad in only five sports — equestrian events, shooting, chess, skiing and sports for the handicapped — because other disciplines would involve breaching Islamic dress codes.

Atlanta dream turns sour for touts, students

ATLANTA (AFP) — The Atlanta Olympics has been hit by recession with black market ticket prices slumping and thousands of students from around the world being sent home because of a shortage of temporary jobs.

With Olympic fever not as intense as expected, the organising committee still has three million full price tickets and hawkers have tens of thousands more for basketball, baseball, football, swimming and a host of other sports.

Butch Russell, a Florida dealer who travels the nation buying and selling tickets, admitted: "Brokers are trying to dump. They overpurchased."

In January, top priced \$636 tickets for the Atlanta opening ceremony were changing hands for up to \$2,000. But many were returned and put back on the market in the days before the opening.

The stadium was full Friday night, but some scalpers were outside with signs in Chinese, English, Spanish and French offering to buy tickets. They were prepared to offer less than half the face value for best tickets and were trying to resell them again for \$400.

Newspapers and the Internet is full of adverts for unsold places and the problem is likely to grow as the U.S. Olympic Committee is to put more unsold tickets on the market in coming days.

But demand for events in the final stages is increasing and Russell and his counterparts could still recoup some losses.

Jerash Festival

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Algerian president wraps-up talks amid renewed violence

ALGIERS (AFP) — President Liamine Zeroual wrapped up a series of talks with party leaders on Algeria's political future at the weekend amid a background of renewed violence.

Mr. Zeroual met delegates from 12 political parties and agreed to set up three mixed-party commissions to prepare for a national political conference, a referendum on constitutional changes and legislative elections to be held early next year.

But the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was excluded from the talks and Mr. Zeroual made it clear he wanted the movement out of the political picture.

The parties are split on the participation of the FIS in the national conference to be held before the end of the summer.

Armed Islamic extremists, including the FIS and the more radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA), have been fighting the military-backed authorities since the cancellation in January 1992 of the second round of legislative elections

which the FIS was poised to win.

Between 50,000 and 70,000 people are estimated to have died in the conflict.

The country has been hit by a new series of bombings and assassinations since May.

Five people were killed and 30 injured Saturday when a bomb exploded in a cafe in Kolea, west of the capital.

The blast came two days after press reports said as many as 19 people were killed in two attacks Wednesday in the town Blida, south of Algiers.

Mr. Zeroual's stance on the FIS is backed by several political parties, including the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) of Said Sadi and the Republican National Alliance (ANR) of Redha Malek.

But others, including the Socialist Forces Front (SFF), which has refused to take part in the commissions, believe the outlawed Islamic group must be allowed to join the national conference if there is to be any chance of peace.

The latest outbreak of violence, in which at least 26 people have died since Wednesday, comes amid splits in the leadership of the GIA.

A week ago, a statement purporting to come from the GIA, said it had ousted Djamel Zitouni as its head in a leadership purge.

The statement said Mr. Zitouni, alias Abou Abderrahmane Amine — who claimed responsibility for the murder of seven French trappist monks in May — belonged to a faction that had been manipulated by the security forces.

Official censorship on the "security situation" makes it difficult to evaluate the true scale of the violence. Recently, newspapers, threatened with suspension, have generally not published reports on the killing of civilians.

Mr. Zeroual, a retired general and former defence minister backed by military hard-liners, was elected president in November last year with 61 per cent of the votes in turnout that was high despite the civil war.



HIZBOLLAH HANDS OVER THE REMAINS OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS: Hizbollah hands over the remains of two Israeli soldiers in a Beirut suburb Sunday to Red Cross delegates under a German-brokered deal to swap them for Arab prisoners and guerrilla remains in Israel. The coffins contained the remains of Rahamim Alsheikh and Yossi Fink and were transported in a German military plane to Tel Aviv (see page 1 story) (Reuters photo)

French FM to arrive in Amman Tuesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — French Foreign Minister Harve de Charette will arrive in Jordan Tuesday for talks with Jordanian officials on the developments in the Middle East peace process in light of the May 29 Israeli elections that brought the Likud bloc to power, a French embassy statement said Sunday.

The statement said that Mr. de Charette will also visit Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian self-rule areas, Israel and Egypt.

The statement said Mr. de Charette will discuss

means for pushing the peace process forward and the role France can play in that effort in light of the "excellent ties" France has with countries of the region.

"The countries of the region ought to respect the agreements that have been concluded especially the Oslo, Taba and Paris accords concerning the economic relations between Israel and the Palestinians," said the statement, adding that the concerned parties ought to resume their bilateral

negotiations without preconditions and on the basis of the earlier agreements.

According to the statement, the French minister will stress the view that all parties of the peace process should refrain from committing "acts that would create a fait accompli situation or seriously affect the resumption of the peace process, especially in connection with Jerusalem whose status is still pending the negotiations among the concerned parties."

The French minister will discuss with Palestinian

President Yasser Arafat the consequences of the closure by Israel of the Palestinian territories, said the statement, which said Israel's decision to ease the siege on the Palestinians was "a positive" step which would encourage the French minister to go ahead with discussions over the total lifting of the siege.

It said that France was ready to facilitate dialogue between the concerned parties and to help them overcome the difficulties that they face.

Ciller reelected head of True Path Party

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller was reelected head of the True Path Party (DYP), junior partner in the Islamic-conservative ruling coalition, during the party's congress in Ankara Sunday.

Ms. Ciller won by a huge majority, collecting the votes of 1,095 of the 1,208 delegates present. Her only adversary, Mehmet Duler, attracted just 79 votes.

His speech had been drowned out by boos and angry shouts from hecklers and he was only able to cast his vote under the protection of bodyguards.

A second opponent, Nurullah Aydin, who had earlier declared that he would stand for the party's presidency, withdrew his candidacy Sunday and accused the congress of being under the thumb of Ms. Ciller.

Most Ciller opponents inside the party have been excluded from party ranks over the past months, or resigned before or after the government was voted into office by parliament on July 8.

Ms. Ciller, who is also foreign minister in the cabinet of Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin

Erbakan, has presented her alliance with the latter's Welfare Party as a bid to achieve "social reconciliation."

"We will not allow secularism to be abandoned for the sake of democracy nor democracy abandoned for the sake of secularism," she said before Sunday's vote. "It is time to make peace between the 21 per cent (garnished by the Welfare Party) and the 79 per cent (won by other parties in the December 1995 general elections), and the DYP will do this," she added.

Ms. Ciller had ruled out a coalition between her True

Path Party and Mr. Erbakan's fundamentalist party before the Dec. 24 vote and is facing strong criticism for entering an alliance with the Islamists after all to guarantee her political survival.

The Welfare Party had spearheaded moves for parliamentary investigations into alleged corruption by Ms. Ciller in May and June but the coalition agreement then reportedly included secret provisions that Welfare would back Ms. Ciller before investigating committees and help her avoid appearing before a high court.

Ross visit does not aim to restart peace talks

The Jerusalem Post

WASHINGTON — U.S. special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross said last week that the peace team's visit to the region this week is not aimed at restarting the frozen Israeli-Syrian talks.

In an apparent effort to lower expectations for the trip, Mr. Ross laid out a modest goal of briefing Arab leaders on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit two weeks ago.

"The purpose of this trip is to go out and to deal with

the leaders of a number of countries in the aftermath of the prime minister's visit here. It really has two kinds of purposes: One is to offer more thorough briefings on what our discussions with the prime minister have been, and also to begin a process of consultation."

Mr. Ross told reporters at a day-long State Department symposium.

He said that following the trip, he would consult with Secretary of State Warren Christopher to see "what the appropriate next step might be."

Jordanian athlete disqualified from Olympics

ATLANTA (R) — Two athletes failed to make the weigh-in for the men's half-heavyweight Olympic judo competition on Sunday, one day after a mix-up left the defending heavyweight champion unable to compete.

Walid Al Awazem of Jordan failed to appear at the morning weigh-in and was disqualified. Hassan Ait Sabah of Morocco appeared but was too heavy for the 95-kilogramme division. On Saturday, defending heavyweight champion David Khakhaesvili of Georgia was unable to defend his title after he did not show up for weigh-in. The European champion arrived at the downtown venue to find the weigh-in was taking place at the athletes village. By the time he returned, International Judo Federation President Park Yung-Sung had decided to remove him from the start list.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. inspectors keep mum on mission

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. inspectors on Sunday pursued a mission to probe secrets of Iraq's banned weapons programmes but kept mum on whether Baghdad was allowing them to visit all sites. "The team hasn't left Iraq," according to a U.N. official who declined to give details on the activities of the 34-member team led by Nikita Smidovich of Russia. The experts with the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM) on dismantling Iraq resumed their inspections on Saturday following a short suspension after Iraqi authorities again prevented them entering suspected sites. UNSCOM Chairman Rolf Ekens on Friday called off the snap searches by the team as Iraqi roadblocks on Thursday had "made a mockery" of a June 22 agreement in which the Iraqi government promised free access to the inspectors.

Afghan president appoints ministers

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's president has appointed a new deputy prime minister and two acting ministers to serve in Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's expanding government, officials said Sunday. The new appointments by President Burhanuddin Rabbani on Mr. Hekmatyar's advice came two weeks after the first eight of 26 ministers in the fragile new five-party interim coalition were announced. Mr. Rabbani on Saturday confirmed Mr. Hekmatyar's choice of Qubuddin Helal — one of Mr. Hekmatyar's top political officers — as deputy premier in the 25-day old administration, the ministerial officials said.

U.S. will not try to arrest Karadzic

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Vice-President Al Gore reiterated Sunday the U.S. determination that U.S. soldiers will not be used to arrest Bosnian Serb political leader and reputed war criminal Radovan Karadzic. "We do believe that he will be apprehended," Mr. Gore said in an interview with CBS television. "We don't believe that U.S. troops should be assigned the mission of going door-to-door hunting a single individual in circumstances where it would be very difficult to complete that mission," said Mr. Gore. As part of a deal reached last week, Mr. Karadzic agreed to step down as head of his party and stay off radio and television broadcasts, a bid to keep him from becoming a sort of power behind the throne.

Prisoner dies in Turkish jail

ISTANBUL (AFP) — A prisoner died at Istanbul's Umranliye prison on Sunday, 63 days after beginning a hunger strike, his lawyers said. The detainee, Aygun Ugur, a member of the outlawed Marxist-Leninist Turkish Communist Party (TKP-ML), was one of more than 210 detainees in several Turkish prisons who went on hunger strike in May. Turkey's Human Rights Association (IHDA) warned on Wednesday that three of the prisoners "may die at any moment." Ugur's lawyers said on Sunday the public prosecutor's office had announced he had died. The prisoners, convicted of terrorist acts, have been on hunger strike in jails nationwide to press demands for improved conditions and the closure of a top security prison notorious for keeping its prisoners in isolation. On Saturday, Turkish police in Ankara arrested 134 people taking part in a sit-in in support of the hunger striking prisoners.

Netanyahu 'hates' Arafat, new Israeli ambassador to U.S. says

CAIRO (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "hates" Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, but realises he must deal with "reality," Israel's new ambassador to the U.S. said in an interview Sunday.

"We are in the presence of a man who hates Arafat and doesn't consider him worthy to sit at the negotiating table," Eliahu Ben Elissar said of Mr. Netanyahu in the Arab daily Al Hayat, received in Cairo.

"I didn't bring (Arafat) here from Tunis. It was the previous government. But he is here now and I know it's not in our power to return him to Tunis. So unfortunately, I must swallow that," Mr. Elissar told the paper.

Mr. Arafat returned for the first time to the West Bank and Gaza from PLO headquarters in Tunis in 1994 under the Oslo accords signed with Mr. Netanyahu's Labour predecessor Shimon Peres.

Mr. Elissar said Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing Likud Party "does not recognise the Oslo accords nor do we want to recognise them because we don't want to give them legal power."

"But we recognise that they created a reality we cannot eliminate. Part of that reality is Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian authority. I use

Report: Netanyahu calls on U.S. to maintain aid to Egypt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called on the United States to maintain its economic aid to Egypt, the daily Haaretz said Sunday.

Mr. Netanyahu let the U.S. Congress know through the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington that Israel considers U.S. aid to Egypt important and that the package should not be altered, the paper said.

Egypt, the second biggest beneficiary of U.S. aid after Israel, receives around \$2.15 billion of assistance from the United States every year, mostly in military aid.

The Israeli press has reported that after Mr. Netanyahu took power on June 18 his government instructed the pro-Israeli lobby in the U.S. to threaten Egypt with a reduction in aid if the Arab state took up a "negative" stance towards Israel.

According to Haaretz, quoting unidentified Israeli officials, the "positive" attitude of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak towards Mr. Netanyahu during the Israeli premier's visit to Cairo last week was influenced by Mr. Mubarak's trip to Washington next week.

the term Palestinian authority as a euphemism, although I know who leads it."

Mr. Netanyahu has refused to commit to face-to-face talks with Mr. Arafat, saying he would meet him only if it was "in the interests of Israel."

Mr. Arafat is to meet Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Tuesday.

Mr. Elissar, a former ambassador to Cairo and head of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, has moved to Washington and will take the post of Ambassador

Itamar Rabinovitch in September, according to Israel's foreign ministry.

Mr. Elissar said the Palestinians will have to accept that Israel will never allow them an independent state and must settle for a "modus vivendi" with Israel.

"There must be a sort of division where each side lives his own life and is responsible for his own affairs. Security in (the occupied territories) will be in Israeli hands with Palestinian sensibilities taken into account."

Palestinian intelligence agents seek personal information on reporters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — A questionnaire distributed by Palestinian intelligence agents that asks Palestinian journalists about their political backgrounds and whether their relatives have ever been accused of spying drew strong condemnation Sunday.

The two-page questionnaire, circulated among Palestinian reporters in the Gaza Strip, asks such questions as:

- Do you belong to a political party? Which one?

- Have you ever been arrested for political reasons?

- Did you ever work for a foreign diplomatic institution, foreign government or a foreign organisation?

- Who recommended you for this job?

- Name your close relatives and friends and what they do.

The questionnaire also asks for family histories and personal information down to the journalist's blood type.

Palestinian intelligence would not comment Sunday on the questionnaire. It was condemned by the Arab Journalists Association, based in Ramallah, which called on reporters not to fill out the form.

"This is categorically unacceptable," said Mohammed Dawoudi, an official of the organisation. "It is not acceptable to deal with the Palestinian journalist as a spy."

Palestinian intelligence often asks Palestinian editors not to publish negative news items about Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority. An editor of Al Quds newspaper was arrested for five days last year for failing to publish a laudatory story about Mr. Arafat on the front page.

Palestinian reporters and photographers have been arrested, intimidated and beaten for publishing stories or photographs that are not favourable to the Palestinian authority.

One intelligence officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, called his own agency's policies "the rule of thugs."

Acting Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo called the form "illegal," but it was not clear that he had any authority over the intelligence agency.

The questionnaire was not given to foreign journalists — although it was given to Palestinian employees of foreign news organisations — or to journalists in the West Bank.



Security dragnet 'nabs' Ted Turner at CNN

ATLANTA (R) — The security dragnet thrown around the Olympic Games is so tight that even Ted Turner was stopped at the door to CNN Centre until someone could vouch for him. The founder of Cable News Network (CNN), recognised around the world by his Rhett Butler moustache, towering frame and foghorn voice, was unable to convince his own security guard Friday that he was, well, Ted Turner.

According to a story confirmed Saturday by a Turner spokesman, the 57-year-old media mogul tried to get into the corporate headquarters of Turner Broadcasting System Inc., where he and his actress wife, Jane Fonda, have a penthouse apartment. But with Olympic organisers on edge after the suspicious crash of a TWA Jumbo Jet off New York, security officials at the building which stands adjacent to Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park were in no mood to take chances. The CNN guard was part of an extra security force hired to watch the building during the games and had never seen Turner in person. Turner was sporting a newly-grown beard and did not have his identification badge. When the proper ID was not forthcoming, the guard suspected he might be dealing with a Turner look-alike. Eventually, the head of CNN security convinced the guard that Turner was who he claimed to be.

French reporters slip by New York airport checks

PARIS (R) — A French radio reporter said Sunday he and a colleague exposed security gaps at New York's Kennedy Airport by slipping past guards into a departure lounge three days after a Paris-bound TWA jet exploded after takeoff. "We weren't checked. If we'd been carrying a bomb, we could have given it to an accomplice boarding the plane," the France Info reporter told the radio. He said he and a reporter from Radio France Internationale (RFI), without tickets and eluding security, got into the TWA departure lounge at Kennedy Airport from which the doomed flight took off. All 230 people aboard TWA Flight 800 from New York to Paris died Wednesday when the plane exploded in a fireball over the Atlantic just after takeoff. Investigators hint they believe a bomb caused the crash but say it is too early to be sure. The reporter said the two, at the airport to meet relatives of French victims, got in by walking against the flow of passengers leaving the terminal. Whenever they came to a closed door, they waited for passengers to emerge and then slipped past, eventually reaching Gate 25 where passengers were boarding a flight bound for Puerto Rico. The reporter said they took photographs to prove the story.

Flight delayed for having one passenger too many

FRANKFURT (AFP) — A United Airlines flight bound for Washington from Frankfurt was delayed several hours because it had one passenger too many, airport authorities said Sunday. In the incident Saturday, the pilot noticed the extra passenger, had him removed from the plane and asked for a thorough check of the aircraft. Security checks were repeated for all baggage before flight. Airport officials said the intruder had apparently boarded the plane by mistake.

King offers condolence

Arab leaders, Damascus

AMMAN, Syria — His Majesty King Hussein offered his private condolences to the family of the late President Hafez A Assad on the death of Mr. Assad.

The King received a delegation of Syrian Arab Republic officials who wished to express their condolences to the King on the death of the President of the Syrian Arab Republic.

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Regent sends cables to Mubarak, Sultan Qaboos

AMMAN, Syria — His Majesty King Hussein Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos of Oman expressing his condolences on the death of the Sultan's father, Sultan Said bin Taimur. He also sent a cable to the Sultan of Oman expressing his condolences on the death of the Sultan's father, Sultan Said bin Taimur.

Arafat to visit Syria Thursday

JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will visit Damascus on Thursday to coordinate Palestinian efforts in the Middle East peace process with President Hafez Al Assad, an aide said on Monday. The visit will be Mr. Arafat's first to Syria since the Palestinian leader returned to Gaza in 1994 under a self-rule deal with Israel. "The president will hold consultations with President Assad on coordinating the Arab summit," Mr. Arafat's media adviser Nabil Abu Raddinah told Reuters. "We look forward to this visit and would in much importance," Mr. Arafat and Mr. Assad met in Cairo in June during the first Arab summit meeting in six years.

French reporters slip by New York airport checks

PARIS (R) — A French radio reporter said Sunday he and a colleague exposed security gaps at New York's Kennedy Airport by slipping past guards into a departure lounge three days after a Paris-bound TWA jet exploded after takeoff. "We weren't checked. If we'd been carrying a bomb, we could have given it to an accomplice boarding the plane," the France Info reporter told the radio. He said he and a reporter from Radio France Internationale (RFI), without tickets and eluding security, got into the TWA departure lounge at Kennedy Airport from which the doomed flight took off. All 230 people aboard TWA Flight 800 from New York to Paris died Wednesday when the plane exploded in a fireball over the Atlantic just after takeoff. Investigators hint they believe a bomb caused the crash but say it is too early to be sure. The reporter said the two, at the airport to meet relatives of French victims, got in by walking against the flow of passengers leaving the terminal. Whenever they came to a closed door, they waited for passengers to emerge and then slipped past, eventually reaching Gate 25 where passengers were boarding a flight bound for Puerto Rico. The reporter said they took photographs to prove the story.

Israel court frees Palestinian women release

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's high court on Monday temporarily barred the release of two jailed Palestinian women whom President Ezer Weizman had decided to pardon, a court spokesman said. Spokesman Moshe Goral said the court put the release on hold at least until Thursday when a petition against freeing the women brought by a right-wing Israeli group would be heard by a three-judge high court panel. Last Thursday, Mr. Weizman's spokeswoman said the president had decided to pardon two Palestinian women convicted of murder. He had previously refused to free the two because they had "blood on their hands."

The army said on Sunday it was weighing pardoning three other Palestinian women who had been convicted in military courts of murder. All five were expected to be released this week.